

Why Church?
Week 5: Because We Need Each Other

1. What is the difference between community *inside* the church and community *outside* the church?
2. Take a look at the picture of the first church in **Acts 2:42-27**. What do you notice about the community here? Why do you think the church of today seems so different?
3. Read **Galatians 2:19-21**. What does it mean to be “crucified with Christ”? How does that truth change the way we relate to each other as followers of Jesus?
4. Read **John 13:34-35**. Why should we love each other? What makes the commandment “new”? What makes this type of love difficult?
5. According to Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Christian community “is not an ideal to be realized. It is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate. The more clearly we learn to recognize that the ground and strength and promise of all our fellowship is in Jesus Christ alone, the more serenely shall we think of our fellowship and pray and hope for it.”

How would you describe the “reality” of your own experience in Christian community? What are you missing? What would a greater level of participation look like for you?