

The Model Church

Acts 2:42-47

MAIN IDEA: Barriers to community keep us from fulfilling God's plan for the church.

1. Sin
2. Selfishness
3. Pride
 - a. Pharisee Syndrome
 - b. Judgemental Demands
 - c. Unforgiveness
 - d. Refusing to be served

How does the church described in 1 Corinthians 11:17-22 differ from the model church in Acts 2:42-47? What are the barriers to building community? Why do you think this happened?

Where else in Scripture do you see the breakdown of unity in the Body?

In the church, when does the sin of one member impact the community as a whole? (See Joshua 22:20)

Read 1 John 1-9. How can we keep sin from destroying meaningful and lasting relationships in our community?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

In the sermon, Dan mentioned that the sins that cause division in community are the sins we are comfortable with. What sin (if any) do you know you should deal with but haven't?

When you reflect on the communities you are a part of, how can you replace selfishness with selflessness? What steps will you take to accomplish this? Consider James 4:1-2.

Pride is a barrier to community (Philippians 2:3). Have you experienced pride as a barrier in your community? How so? Consider the four types of pride from the sermon: appearing spiritual, making judgemental demands, harboring unforgiveness and

refusing to be served. Which do you struggle with most? What steps will you take to break through this barrier?

PRAY

- Ask God to search your heart so you can then confront pride with confession and prayer.
- Ask someone you trust to hold you accountable.
- Asking for prayer can be difficult. Sometimes it is easier to request prayers for family and friends. Ask your small group to pray for *you specifically*.

REPRODUCE

- Reconnect with someone you may have had differences with and ask God to prepare both of your hearts for unity.
- Ask God to provide an opportunity to invite someone different from the rest of you to join your small group.

KEY VERSES

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| • Acts 2:42-47 | • James 4:1-2 | • Proverbs 11:2 |
| • 1 Corinthians 11:17-22 | • 1 John 1:8-9 | • Proverbs 18:12 |
| • Philippians 2:3-4 | • Joshua 22:20 | • Matthew 5:23-24 |