

2016 Theme: One Another

Another year, another theme. So goes the mantra at Brownsburg – right? But let me tell you why this year is different: we are talking about one of the most quintessential qualities of the New Testament church, the body and bride of Christ as it was meant to be, and that quality is community. Perhaps the word is cliché by now. Call it kinship, fellowship, brotherly love, family (some of these examples are better than other synonyms one finds for community, such as commune, clan, or nation, simply for their negative connotations) – call it whatever you want, but the point is that Jesus said the world would know his people by their communal love.



Josh did a great job kicking off the year by shifting our gaze toward this passage in John 13:34-35. But we want to do more than look at ink curiously organized on wispy paper; no, we want to embody this vision Jesus had for his church. We want to facilitate community in every way possible.

There are great things about emphasizing the individual's need to grasp his/her own identity and destiny and their need to steer such in the direction of Messiah. But we often emphasize or push individualistic qualities to our own dehumanization. We were made for each other, for togetherness. And some great things can only be accomplished through the communal power of a team. This is exactly Jesus's calling. Not only this, but I think if we search within ourselves, we all know there lies within a deep need for others in our life.

So this year we take a moment to deconstruct harmful habits we've developed that essentially deter true community as Jesus imagined it. And we're going to focus on the theme of community in the Scriptures, starting with Genesis – the true origin of community (and love, for that matter).

Here's what you can expect from the pulpit for 2016. Besides the rewarding workshops we expect to hear from our designated evangelist, Joshua Webber, that will ultimately be about

growing our community here – we can also expect expositions of specific scriptures that shed light on the multifaceted nature of community. We'll start with Genesis, delve into the problem of hypocrisy and masquerading religion in the church, and even learn about church problems from Paul's letter to Corinth. This is just a sample of what's to come. Please plan on being here and inviting your friends.

Here's what we want you to do. Pretty please, pray, pray, pray that God's will would be done here at Brownsburg regarding community and try to stay active and engaged with the life of the church here so that you, too, can contribute to enhancement of our spiritual kinship.