



Review and Introduction:

- God's Design = A Beautiful Community (Trinity)

"The deepest meaning of the human person is not a reality defined simply by individualism but includes, as essential to the definition, one who is interrelated. Christian community is, then, a gathering of persons called by God in Christ, empowered and animated by the indwelling presence of the Spirit, who feely give themselves to one another in love. The human person as "Imago Dei" is called to share in the shared love of the Trinity and communicate that love to others." – Jean Marie Dwyer, Community as the Image of the Trinity

- Sin = Broken Community
- Redemption, Reunion and Renewal

"These words we find throughout God's Word—renewed, reconciled, united—are the reversal of the fractures, divides, breaks and partitions of life in this world and before God that were and are so desperately needed. We are truly stamped from the beginning for unity and union, for wholeness and shalom, for beauty. God himself is committed to knitting the human race back together in Jesus Christ." – Irwyn L. Ince Jr., The Beautiful Community

- Faith Expressing Itself in Love
- Characteristics of a Beautiful Community

Fruit of Love: Joy (1Peter 1:8-9; Romans 15:13; 2 Corinthians 4:16-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Happiness	Joy
Based on circumstances	Despite circumstances
Us focused	Kingdom focused
In reaction to accomplishments, achievement, and material gain	From a place of gratitude, praise and confidence
Is a feeling (remember feelings are fleeting)	State of being
Looking to earthly things	Viewing from a heavenly perspective
Hope in "it" (it being the thing you think will bring you happiness)	Full of hope

Chart by Nicole Fryling, Restorative Counseling Center

Compelled by Love (2 Corinthians 5:14-17, Acts 2:46-47)

A Community that is moving towards others as God has moved towards us...

"The great difference between present day Christianity and that of which we read in the pages of Acts is that to us it is primarily a performance, to them it was a real experience, ... To these men and women it is quite plainly the invasion of their lives be a new quality of life altogether. They do not hesitate to describe this as Christ "living in" them. – J. B. Philipps