

**I. Why have we lost a sense of Community?**

- 1.) Social mobility: 1 in 5 people move once a year.
- 2.) Social gatherings (like bowling leagues), have dropped off 50% since the 1950's.
- 3.) Television and the internet have reduced social interaction.
- 4.) Texting and email have replaced talking and meeting face to face.
- 5.) Church attendance has declined 30% since the 1950's.

**II. "Real Community" was God's idea and it started with the family.**

**Genesis 2:18 NIV** <sup>18</sup> The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

**III. "Real Community" was the foundation for greatness in the early days of the church in America.**

**Acts 2:44-47 The MSG** <sup>44-45</sup> And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met. <sup>46-47</sup> They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

**IV. "Real Community" cannot exist when we isolate ourselves.**

**Proverbs 18:1 NKJ** <sup>1</sup> A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.

**I Cor 12:21 NKJ** <sup>21</sup> And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

**V. There is hope if we are willing to change.**

- 1.) We need to repent and pursue a relationship with God and others.

**II Chron 7:14 NIV** <sup>14</sup> if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

- 2.) Tough times can bond us into Real Community."

**Acts 4:32-33 NLT** <sup>32</sup> All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. <sup>33</sup> The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all.

- 3.) We need to be intentional in connecting in community.

**Eph 4:2-3 NLT** <sup>2</sup> Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

