

Together, Living With Purpose
“Close Enough to Love”

November 3rd, 2019

Romans 12:9 Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. 10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. (NLT)

1 Thess. 2:1 You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. 2 We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. 3 For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. 4 On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. 5 You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. 6 We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. 7 Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, 8 so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. 9 Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. 10 You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. 11 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, 12 encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. ESV

Marks of a Biblical Community:

1. A Biblical community that loves well regularly meets together believing that they need each other.
2. A Biblical community that 'loves' worships God together.
Acts 2:42
3. A Biblical community that loves people is marked by Jesus' love.
4. A Biblical community that loves is marked by a growing authenticity.

Why do people struggle going deeper with relationships?

- The Biblical Answer - Gen. 3.

What does it mean to be marked by love and moving toward deeper and more authentic relationships?

1. We must stop pretending that we are “loving” by only offering casual relationships within the church family.
2. We must have Spirit empowered boldness and believe that we have something to offer to others.
3. It means that those farther along in the faith give relationship/themselves first.