



**Series:** All Things New

**Sermon:** Part 3: The Power of Community

**Date:** Sunday, April 30th, 2023

Christians are not exempt from \_\_\_\_\_.

We read in the book of Acts that \_\_\_\_\_ people who claimed to be followers of Jesus expressed the message of Jesus and salvation with their speech and with how they lived.

When God changes your life, you naturally want to \_\_\_\_\_ others about Him.

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.  
(Acts 2:42-47)*

### **The 1st Century Church Was...**

- 1. Devoted to discipleship**
- 2. Devoted to fellowship**
- 3. Devoted to worship**
- 4. Devoted to ministry**
- 5. Devoted to mission**

*"The explosive growth of Christianity was in reality accomplished by means of informal missionaries."  
(Michael Green, Theologian)*

### **Common Postures of Non-Believers:**

- 1. Ignorance**
- 2. Apathetic**
- 3. Hurt**



It was every lay person being a \_\_\_\_\_ wherever they went and in whatever they did.

It is through lay ministers who bring their Godly example and faith into the lives of their neighbors, friends, co-workers, family, and community that trust is built and people come to know Jesus.

**Creating a Culture of Lay Ministers Requires:**

**1. Believers living with relational \_\_\_\_\_**

- a. Participating fully in life with others
- b. Living with excellence
- c. Integrity
- d. Generosity
- e. Hospitality
- f. Forgiveness
- g. How we deal with adversity
- h. Equity

*“We will have an impact for the Gospel if we are like those around us yet profoundly different and unlike them at the same time, all the while remaining very visible and engaged.”*  
*(Pastor Tim Keller, Redeemer Church)*

**2. Pastoral \_\_\_\_\_**

**3. \_\_\_\_\_ venues**

**Bottom Line:** *When God changes your life, you naturally want to tell others about Him.*

**Questions to reflect on this week or with others:**

- 1. What are some things, if we ALL did it, would help people find new life in Christ?
- 2. If you consider yourself to be a follower of Jesus, what prevents you from sharing your faith with others? What prevents you from being a lay minister and not just someone who sits in a seat at church?
- 3. How can you leverage your friendships to help people find hope in the God Who loves them?

*Songs used in service: Battle Belongs (Phil Wickham), Goodness of God (Rhett Walker), Available (Elevation Worship), God Really Loves Us (Crowder & Maverick City Music)*

-----Tear Here -----

**Any prayer requests?**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email (so we can follow up):** \_\_\_\_\_

**What can we be praying for you about?**