



UNCOMFORTABLE

Do the Right Thing

#npuncomfortable

Week 2

2 of 4

August 11, 2019

Bottom Line: Live in community—risk being known.

Icebreaker: Would you rather be stranded on an island alone or with someone you don't like? Why? What would you do first to try to get found?

Key Verse: *Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble and keep on praying. When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.* Romans 12:9-13 NLT

Small groups CAN be authentic community, but they aren't always. Sometimes it's only connection, and that's a good start. But real community, authentic community is the thing for which God has designed us. It's truly dangerous to try to do life alone. In Romans 12:9-13 we are shown some of the elements of authentic community:

- Sharing the real you, not a protection of yourself (v. 9).
- Meeting real needs, not superficial ones (v. 10).
- Doing it for the right reason, not to please people (v. 11).
- Doing it in the right way, not in our own strength (vv. 12-13).

That's a tall order, with an outward focus, and it is very important to Jesus. John 17 records His prayer for us that we would have this community with God and others, and He said it is the way the world will believe. It is an intimacy that pushes past our fear and discomfort to love even when it is hard and uncomfortable. Love doesn't always feel like loving; care doesn't always feel like caring. But in authentic community we surrender ourselves to Jesus fully to be used in the lives of others for their good, and to allow them to be involved in my life for good. Individualism (wanting to do my own thing), Idealism (expecting people to be perfect), and Intimidation (fear of being known) can keep us from experiencing authentic community. But true community is God's great gift to us, and we will never be truly fulfilled and productive without it. Life change and grow is best sustained here.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

Authentic community is where people lay down their lives for each other. Authentic community is hearing God's Word and continually supporting one another to live it out. Authentic community is where a group of people collectively commit to change their world. Have you experienced this? Where?

It is dangerous to do life alone. Agree or disagree? Explain.

Two characteristics of the real you showing up are authenticity (without masks) and purity (earnestly desiring what is good). Many Christians never experience this level of transparency their entire lives. Why?

"Church" was never intended to be simply something morally positive; it was intended to be transformative. For that, the real me must show up. What is my most frequent reason for faking the real me?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

The word "devotion" is a strong word. It means the same kind of commitment and willingness to lay your life down as you would give to your family. It's doing whatever it takes. How is it lifechanging to receive and give this relationship outside your own home/family?

"Laziness is refusing to do what needs to be done when it needs to be done. We mask our laziness with nice things." That's an ouchy thought. How does it speak to you?

"One of the greatest evidences of genuine humility and dependency is your prayer life." What does this practically mean? How can I develop a consistent and continual upward focus?

"Contributing to the needs of others, pursuing hospitality"—so often we relegate our faith to believing right instead of doing right. What does it look like for you to pursue hospitality, contribute to the needs of others, even strangers?

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Make sure you are connected in a small group and in a serving group.
- 2) Do your part in surrender and participation to make it authentic community.
- 3) Consider how you can meet real needs and pursue hospitality.

EVALUTION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Live in community—risk being known.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Acts 2:42-47

Tuesday: Hebrews 10:24-35

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 12:25-27

Thursday: 1 Peter 4:8-11

Friday: Ephesians 4:11-16

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)