



Uncommon Uncommon Fellowship

#npuncommon

Week 3

3 of 4

August 20, 2017

Bottom Line: Doing life alone is deadly. God desires community for us.

Icebreaker: What was the first team or group to which you belonged? What was the best part of belonging?

Key Verse: *My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.* John 17:20-21

People are generally quite interested in the last words of people as they die. It is believed that people tend to become the most honest when they are about to die. Some have even said that of all the words a man utters in his entire lifetime, it is what he says on his deathbed that makes the most sense. Major John Andre, hung as a spy, said, "I pray you to bear me witness that I met my fate like a brave man." His honor was most important. "I shall be with Christ, and that is enough," said Michael Faraday, famed scientist. His relationship with Christ was foremost. Famed artist Joan Crawford, dying of cancer, saw two nurses softly praying, and snapped, "Don't you dare ask God to help me!" Her self-sufficient rebellion was still her core.

Jesus had us on His mind as He was approaching death. He loved us so much He was going to die to pay the debt for our sins, and He wanted us to have the most satisfying life possible. He knew that would come from unity, first with Him and His Father, and then with each other. This would be uncommon community. It was His dream for us. The best relationships are always characterized by close community, and that desire for us was what was on His mind as He approached His last hours here. It was His chief desire, and He prayed it not only for His disciples who were present with Him then, but for all who would believe because of them. That means us.

This uncommon community would not only bless us. It would be the witness and proof to the world that we belong to Him. It still is (John 13:34-35).

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most specifically from the weekend message?

"God's dream for us is Koinonia—where people are committed to one another as much as they are Christ."

Discuss. Have you ever experienced this? What was it like?

"Make love a verb. I am not asking you to feel something. I am asking you to do something." How would that attitude toward love make a difference in your home?

"Uncommon fellowship is first uncomfortable, and then unrefutable, undeniable." Explain this statement.

"People go wrong in their fellowships before they go wrong in their doctrine." John R. Rice Agree or disagree? Why?

Read more: [quotes](#)

LOOK IT OVER <<<

"Loving one another became the hallmark of the church." How can we differ and still love?

In Jesus' day, this kind of love was uncommon. It still is. How have you experienced uncommon love from the followers of Jesus Christ?

The "one another" phrases of the New Testament describe the activity of love with remarkable clarity. There is no doubt what this kind of love looks like, and no doubt that it is supernatural.

Which of these expressions of love do you find most challenging or most impactful, and why?

Accept one another, Forgive one another,

Encourage one another, Restore one another,

Submit to one another, Carry one another's burdens.

NEXT STEPS

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

1. Take a few moments to go around the group, and verbally affirm each other. Encourage each person with something that is loveable or wonderful about them.
2. Pray for each person in the group aloud, individually.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Doing life alone is deadly. God desires community for us.

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:

Day 1: Romans 15:7

Day 2: Ephesians 4:32

Day 3: 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Day 4: Galatians 6:2

Day 5: Ephesians 5:21

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)