

**The Necessity of Community**

**Eph. 3:20**

*-It is the Lord's desire for us to experience His "superabundance".*

*-This means experiencing His life and His works.*

- Rest – simple faith and obedience.*
- One area we have failed is in the understanding that the manifestation of His resurrection life and works take place in the COMMUNITY (covenant fellowship) of believers.*

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**The Necessity of Community**

**Gal 3:13:** *"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree')..."*

*-A curse is that which gives the enemy access to our lives, families and regions, that is a result of unrepentant sin (idolatry and/or disobedience).*

*-The justice of the Lord has to be satisfied either in my paying the price, or the power of the blood of the Lamb being loosed to fulfill it.*

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**Philip Rieff - The Triumph of the Therapeutic**

*•Rieff argues that western society was made up of community life at one time, and living in community prevented personality disintegration.*

*-People had boundaries (security), they felt needed and a part of something, and they had defined purposes.*

*•Because of western society's mobile economy, community life broke down, and this opened the door for the therapeutic breakdown of the personality.*

*•Individual psychological counseling was developed (basically Freudian in nature, focusing on the individual), which aimed at helping individuals function without family, community or corporate support.*

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**The Necessity of Community**

**Covenant Community Promise:**

○ **Lev. 26:8-9:** *“Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you. For I will look on you favorably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My covenant with you.”*

○ **Successful DOMINION would be exercised!**

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**The Necessity of Community**

**Mal. 4:4-6**

○ *It was prophesied that until this very thing happened, a curse would rest upon the entire earth.*

○ *We are to be a covenant community, worshipping and serving the Lord in community with our personal giftings, callings, etc., in focused unity.*

○ *There, the commanded blessing comes, the Lord’s authority is established and deliverance comes to people AND the earth itself.*

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**What More Needs to Be Done?!**

• **Personal sin** has been confessed and repented of...

• **Ancestral sin and curses** have been addressed and renounced...

• We have dealt with the **sins and curses on the land...**

–Then why are we not experiencing His “superabundance?”

• **We cannot fulfill our purpose apart from being vitally connected and functioning in community.**

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**Our Three-fold Kingdom Purpose**

**•Love the Lord:**

*–intimacy, worship, prayer, personal identity.*

**•Love the brethren:**

*–community, discipline/training, corporate unity – His manifest presence, power and authority.*

**•“Go & make disciples,” releasing the kingdom of God:**

*–fulfilling our purpose for which He created us.*

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