

Third Thursday Notes

May 15, 2025 - Community vs. Community

What is the difference between biblical and worldly community, and why does it matter?

Why Thinking Through Community Matters

- You will have community, whether you think about it or not. So make it biblical.
- Everyone you know was created for (and thus longs for) biblical community.

The Differences Between Biblical and Worldly Community

- Biblical community is outside-in (pressed upon us as an obligation) while worldly community is inside-out (driven by self and what we get out of it).
- Biblical community is bound together by the Spirit of God, not by sameness.
- True diversity can only exist in biblical community.

Inherent Qualities of Biblical Community

- The exaltation of Christ.
- The devotion to serve one another.
- The willingness to engage in conflict (spurring one another on).
- The very presence of God in our midst.

Ways to Create Biblical Community

- Intentionality.
 - Thoughtful consideration of what activities we do together.
 - Prayer over our gatherings and activities.
 - Deliberate language that creates culture.
- By-product.
 - Don't aim for community (that is essentially worldly community).
 - Aim for the exaltation of Christ and His mission, and community will follow.
- Dependence.
 - Craft gatherings, activities, strategies, etc. in such a way that the Spirit of God must be present in order for them to be successful.
 - Ask God to be present and move, expect Him to do so, and celebrate it openly when He does.

How does this affect you? How does this affect your leaders? How does this affect your students?