

AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY
Matthew 16:13-20 • March 20, 2022
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INTRODUCTION:

A. We are better together than we are alone!

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all people on the face of the earth to be His people, His treasured possession.

— Deuteronomy 7:6

"I will build my church, and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it." — Matthew 16:18

B. A shared unity (Koinonia) that "**salts...and...lights**" the Church and the community.

"...let your good deeds shine your for all to see (an experience) so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

— Matthew 5:16

...loving one another and working together with one mind and purpose. — Philippians 2:2

I. WHY DO WE DO WHAT WE DO?

A. Because eternity is in the balance.

"For God loved the world so much that He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."

— John 3:16

B. Because we are called and commissioned.

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey (live out) everything I have commanded you."

— Matthew 28:19-20

II. HOW ARE WE RESPONDING?

A. **Our SCC Vision:** "Responding to the Great Commission by encouraging unchurched/de-churched people to join us as we become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ."

B. How to fulfill our vision: (Matthew 22:36-40 & 28:19-20)

- Celebrate God's presence in **worship** (Matthew 22:36)

"Love God with all your heart"

- Demonstrate God's love in **ministry**

"Love your neighbor as yourself"

- Communicate God's Word in **evangelism**

"Go...make disciples"

- Educate God's people through **discipleship**

"Teaching them...all things"

C. **Seven SCC Core Values:**

1. Lost people matter to God and to us (Luke 5:30-32).

2. Becoming a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ is normal/optimal (Ephesians 4:13 & 5:1-2).

3. The Church is a community of servants empowered and equipped for ministry – both inside the church and out in the community (I Corinthians 12).

4. Worship will be culturally relevant and Biblically informed (I Corinthians 9:19-23)

5. Loving relationships should permeate every aspect of life as a community of faith (I Corinthians 13; John 13:34-35)

6. Life change (transformation/sanctification) happens best in small groups (Acts 2:44-47).

7. Excellence honors God and inspires people (Colossians 3:17 & Malachi 1:6-14).

CONCLUSION: