

## **We Value: "Love and Grace expressed among us in Community"**

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**'Community'** How would a person know that they are part of a 'community'? How might it differ from a 'team' or an 'organization'?

**Look up the following scriptures and record what you learn about the community of the Israelites in the Old Testament. (Take special note of the place of 'aliens' in the Israelite community.)**

Numbers 1:16 (NIV)

Numbers 10:2-3 (NIV)

Numbers 15:15 (NIV)

Numbers 15:26 (NIV)

2 Chron. 31:18 (NIV)

**The New Testament does not contain verses using 'community'. Other words are used for groups of believers. Look up the following verses and record how these descriptive titles might also indicate 'community'.**

'family of believers' Galatians 6:10

'the flock' Acts 20:28

'brethren' Colossians 4:15

'household of God' I Timothy 3:15

'dear children' I John 2:1

'Community' - from the Latin word "cum - moenia" which means "with fortifications or defenses." What kind of 'defenses' would surround a community that is characterized by love and grace? What would these communities be trying to protect?

**'Love and Grace': Study the following scriptures**

Leviticus 19:18		Leviticus 19:34		Matthew 5:44
Luke 10:27		Romans 13:8-10		Romans 12:9.10
Romans 14:15		I Corinthians 8:1		I Corinthians 13:1-4
Galatians 5:13		Ephesians 4:2		Ephesians 4:16
Ephesians 5:1		Colossians 3:14		Ephesians 4:15
I Peter 4:8		I John 3:18		John 1:17

Acts 6:8		Acts 11:23		Acts 20:32
Galatians 5:4		Ephesians 4:7		Colossians 4:6
Philippians 1:7		II Timothy 2:1		Hebrews 4:6
Hebrews 12:15		Hebrews 13:9		James 4:6
I Peter 4:10		II Peter 3:18		Jude 1:4

What are 10 words you would use to describe how 'love and grace' are used in the verses listed above?

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| 1. | 6.  |
| 2. | 7.  |
| 3. | 8.  |
| 4. | 9.  |
| 5. | 10. |

Write a paragraph describing what you would see in a community of love and grace.

**"Expressed among us"** The love and grace that we value in our communities can be seen, it is visible as it is expressed among us. Why might this be important?

John 13:34,35 -

John 17:20,21 -

Describe the 'value' of this type of community to God, to us as believers and the lost:

*"In the middle of the wild ocean of shattered dreams and broken lives, the community of Christ celebrates God's forgiveness; they believe in what each other could become, they never minimize sin but they love to maximize grace. They are carriers of Christ to each other. That's what spiritual friends do when they act together on a journey to God."*

*"The Safest Place on Earth" Dr. Lawrence Crabb*