



Seven Things That Kill Community

Remaining Family When We Don't Get Along

Many of us would describe Chi Alpha as our family, and sometimes family relationships get messy. God desires for us to be in this kind of relationship with one another, but what do you do when certain family members are hard to love? Even though we are made new when we become Christians, we are still sinful human beings learning how to reflect God's love towards those around us. Following are some things that kill community, along with Scriptures that talk about how to prevent these things from tearing our family apart.

1. Valuing Our Opinions More Than People: Philippians 2:1-5

- a. What benefits do we receive from being united with Christ? (v. 1)
- b. A goal that Jesus has for His people is that they would be like-minded, having the same love and being united in spirit and purpose. It is good to evaluate how each of us is doing on these important matters. (v.2)
- c. What is it that keeps us from being like-minded, loving, and unified? (v.3) Our selfishness and conceit.
- d. What are these things to be replaced with? (v. 3)
- e. What are some ways we might consider others better than ourselves/look out for their interests?
- f. Notice how v. 5 is similar to Ephesians 5:1.

2. Destroying Another Person's Reputation: Matthew 5:21-26

- a. Jesus is talking about the 10 commandments. What is one way that we "kill" another person?
- b. What are some examples of character assassination?
- c. What is Christ's point in v. 23-24?
- d. What timeline does Jesus give for reconciling broken relationships? (Also see Eph. 4:26-27)

3. Gossip: Matthew 18:15

- a. How does what Jesus teaches here (about reconciliation) relate to gossip?
- b. What should you do if someone comes to you with gossip?
- c. In Matthew 18:21-22 Peter wonders how many times he has to forgive when sinned against. How does Jesus answer?
- d. Why does Jesus teach Peter (and us) the parable of the unmerciful servant (vs. 23-35)? [See Mt. 6:14-15]

4. Petty Arguments: 2 Timothy 2:22-26

- a. What are we to flee?
- b. What are we to not involve ourselves in?
- c. What is to be our focus instead?

5. Responding with Revenge: 1 Corinthians 4:12-13a

- a. How are we to treat others when they sin against us?



6. Disunity and Bitterness: Hebrews 12:14-16

- a. How much effort are we to put into having good relationships? To be holy?
- b. What does our bitterness do to others around us?

7. Lack of Sincerity: Romans 12:9-21

- a. What does it mean to be sincere?
- b. How might each of us apply these commands to our relationships?

Application:

As a group, discuss the things that stuck out to you to most about these passages of Scripture. What are a couple of areas that you need to work on with Jesus? Choose one of these passages and write it down—try to memorize it this week. Then pray as a group that God would help your Life Group become a place of genuine love, forgiveness, and servanthood.