

SERMON NOTES:



Oct 26, 2025

Practicing the Way
COMMUNITY 3.0

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Community is hard work today.

- We're busy and transient.
- Our screens distract and shorten our attention.
- We've become flaky in relationships — we don't know how to stay with people through conflict.
- Even if culture changed overnight, community would still be hard — because the root issue isn't culture, but sin.
- Sin introduced two intruders into the human heart: shame and fear.

1. THE ROOTS OF SHAME (Genesis 2:25)

- Before sin: "Adam and his wife were both naked and they felt no shame."
 - This shows vulnerability, safety, mutual belonging.
- After sin: hiding, fear, and self-protection.
- Shame = fear that you are unlovable — that if people truly knew you, they'd reject you.
- Shame makes us hide, build walls, or push people away.
- Shame disconnects us from God and one another — exactly what the serpent wants.

2. FREEDOM IN CHRIST (Romans 7:21–25; 8:1)

- Paul wrestles: "I want to do good, but evil is right there with me." (Romans 7:21)
- "Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord!"
- Then he declares: "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1)
- In Christ, there is no shame — we are reconnected to God, ourselves, and each other.
- But: we can know this in our heads yet still feel trapped by shame in our hearts.
- As the hands and feet of Christ, it is within the christian community that we can visibly see grace, hear forgiveness and experience reconciliation.

3. FEAR OF COMMUNITY

- Shame and fear make us sabotage intimacy and trust.
- We protect ourselves from rejection — but in doing so, we create the very loneliness we fear.
- Fear grows because people have hurt or judged us.
- Satan uses our wounds to keep us isolated, defensive, and distrustful.
- But God's way of healing fear and shame is through honesty, and confession.

4. THE LOST PRACTICE OF CONFESSION (James 5:16; Mark 2:17)

- Confession is not about grovelling to an authority figure; it's about naming truth in love.
- Jesus said: "It's not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick... I have come to call sinners." (Mark 2:17)
- James 5:16 — "Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed."
 - Notice: confession + prayer = healing, not just forgiveness.
- Confession = safe, sacred transfer of burden — not gossip or shaming.
- It is both naming our sin and receiving God's truth — "You are forgiven, you are loved."

5. EXAMPLE: THE MORAVIAN REVIVAL (Herrnhut, 1727)

- The Moravians were deeply divided — quarrelling and fractured.
- Count Zinzendorf gathered them for Communion, urging honesty and reconciliation.
- Around August 13, 1727, they confessed sins, forgave one another, and pledged to live in love.
- Immediately after, they began continuous prayer — day and night — for 100 years!
- Their confession and reconciliation birthed a world-changing missionary movement.

6. PRACTICAL STEPS

- Start at the table - Keep gathering, eating, and sharing highs/lowes as a community.
- Find a confessor / soul friend / trusted person to speak honestly with — (spiritual director, small group leader, mature believer).
- Create safe patterns (boundaries matter): confidentiality, no fixing, no moralizing, just prayer and presence
- Make space in small groups to model vulnerability. Leaders go first. Invite honesty, and allow this kind of environment to grow slowly... don't force it.

7. PASTORAL WORDS

- Some wounds need professional care — confession complements healing but is not a 'cure all'.
- If you've been hurt in the past by church or confession — we're deeply sorry. My encouragement is to risk again, for the sake of love. Start small, with a trusted friend or mentor.
- If you've wounded others — repent, confess, seek forgiveness, make amends if possible and helpful for the offended party. Also consider that this process won't necessarily nullify the natural consequences of our wrong doing in this life.

"May the God who sets the solitary in families - make us into a family.

May He bind our hearts together in His love.

May He heal our wounds, grow us in courage, and form us into a people of joy and compassion.

*May we confess our sins, carry each other's burdens, and celebrate His goodness around every table —
until we feast at His table forever."*

Amen.

Community 3.0 Practice Recap Video and Reflection:



Practicing the Way Podcast Interview Video COMMUNITY Part 3



PART 3



**For this practice, you
might like to read:**

**Made to Belong: Five Practices For
Cultivating Community in a
Disconnected World**

or

**Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred
Practices in Everyday Life**

