

# Why Biblical Community?

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The Character & Compassion Of God

1 John 4:7-11

# Devotion to Biblical Fellowship

<sup>42</sup>And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and **the fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

# Meaning of Fellowship

Koinonia  
(κοινωνία)

To have in common, to share, or have partnership

# Aspects of Christ Centered Fellowship

1. Shared **RELATIONSHIP** in the person of Christ

... by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body

1 Corinthians 12:13

“so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

Romans 12:5

## 2. Shared **PARTNERSHIP** in the cause of Christ

... when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 4: 16b

### 3. Shared **STEWARDSHIP** in our resources from Christ

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:7

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Peter 4:10

#### 4. Shared **COMPANIONSHIP** in our walk with Christ

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts.

Acts 2:46

# The Mission

Midlothian Bible Church seeks to glorify God and make disciples by bringing people together through the Gospel and building up mature followers of Christ.

# LIFE Groups

**L**ove God

**I**nvest in Others

**F**ollow His Word

**E**ngage our world with the Gospel

# The Writer

## The Apostle John

“the disciple whom Jesus loved”

(Jn. 21:20; cf. 13:23; 20:2; 21:7)

# The Purpose: Provide Assurance

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

1 John 5:13

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The Character & Compassion Of God

1 John 4:7-11

## The Character of God

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 John 4:7–8

“the kind of love the apostle is speaking of is a higher, purer form of love than we commonly know from human experience. The love of which he speaks does not flow naturally from the human heart. It is not a carnal love, a romantic love, or even a familial love. It is a supernatural love that is peculiar to those who know God. It is godly love.”

*J. MacArthur. The God Who Loves*

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# Three characteristics of God's agape

1. It is self-initiating

2. It is self-giving

3. It is active

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# Clearing up Misunderstanding about God is Love

God is love does not deny His  
personhood.

# Clearing up Misunderstanding about God is Love

God is love does not preclude His  
other attributes.

“No quality is independent of or preeminent over any of the others. Whenever God displays His wrath, He is still love. When He shows His love, He does not abandon His holiness.”

Charles Ryrie

# Clearing up Misunderstanding about God is Love

God is love does not preclude His  
other attributes.

# Clearing up Misunderstanding about God is Love

God is love does not equal love is  
God.

Love is a part of God's very nature and can never be absent from God. Love is not just an attribute of God; it is a part of his nature.

D. L. Allen

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Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

# The Compassion of God

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. .

1 John 4:9

# The Compassion of God

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:10

# The Compassion of God

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:11