

**INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER ATLANTA**  
**AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY PART 3**  
**JULY 16TH, 2017 - GABE PALMER**

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**I. Recap**

- A. Authentic means genuine or the undisputed original
- B. We have been born again into a spiritual body. In the same way that God designed our physical body to heal itself, he has given the spiritual body the responsibility of administering healing to itself through confession. (2 Corinthians 12, James 5:16, 1 John 1:5-10)
- C. The glory that we have been given to unite us as one is God's very nature. His name is what we've been given and we are commanded not to take that name in vain but to walk in it, making us one.

**II. Yours, Mine, and Ours**

**Acts 4:32-35** *Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. <sup>33</sup>And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold <sup>35</sup>and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.*

- A. Their love for one another was not only in word, but also in deed. There was a detachment from their possessions. They lived for another age. Their treasure was in heaven.
- B. The outflow of being one heart and one soul was that they shared their material wealth with one another as people had need.
- C. The first century church was not promoting a communist ideology, where private ownership of property is looked down on. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament affirm private ownership of property. (Example: In Acts 12:12 Mary the mother of John Mark owns her home.)

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D. What we see is an attitude that reflects the Trinity

**John 17:10** *All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.*

E. We also see the fulfillment of the law of generosity to the poor in the Old Testament.

**Deuteronomy 15:7-8** *"If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, ...you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother, 8 but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs.*

**Leviticus 25:35** *"If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you.*

F. When we read scriptures about giving to the poor and needy our minds almost always go to those outside the faith. Though we should consider those outside the faith, the overall emphasis of scriptures on the subject are on meeting the needs of your brother/sister in Christ and your neighbor. (Deut 15:11; Matthew 25:31-46; Gal 6:2; Heb 6:10; Rom 12:13; James 2:14-17)

### **III. Sharing our possessions releases the power of God**

**Isaiah 58:1-3** *"Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins.  
<sup>2</sup>Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the judgment of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near to God.<sup>3</sup>'Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?'*

A. God tells his people to repent of their transgressions and sins. Before he points out what sins he is referring too, he points out that they are outwardly doing many godly things.

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1. Seeking God daily
2. Delighting to know his ways
3. They seek righteous judgments
4. Delight in drawing near to God through fasting and prayer.

**Isaiah 58:6-7** <sup>6</sup>*“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?”*

B. God tells them what he is looking for.

1. Loose the bonds of wickedness, undo the straps and break the oppressive yokes, let the oppressed go free.
2. Share your food
3. Open your home to those who need it
4. Clothe those who need it
5. Don't hide yourself from your brothers/sisters in need

**Isaiah 58:8-9a** *Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. <sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’*

C. God tells them the power that is released when they act according to his nature

1. Your light will shine
2. Your healing shall come quickly
3. Your righteousness shall be seen
4. God's glory shall follow you

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5. You shall call out to him and he will respond immediately

**Isaiah 58:9b-10a** *If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, <sup>10</sup>if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,*

D. God tells them more of what he is looking for

1. Stop judging others
2. Stop slandering others
3. Meet the needs of those around you

**Isaiah 58:10b-11** *then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. <sup>11</sup>And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.*

E. Again God declares the outcome of a generous heart

1. You will be guided by the Lord continually
2. The Lord will satisfy your desires
3. The Lord will strengthen you
4. You shall flourish and be refreshed

**Isaiah 58:12** *And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.*

F. Taking care of each other through tangible acts of generosity is a sign of authentic community. The culture of the kingdom is one of self-sacrifice and not self-protection.