

Basic Training – Band of Brothers (Authentic Community)

Weekend Discussion Questions

January 17-18, 2015

Community:

1. Why do you think the closest bonds we form with people outside our family happen when we're fighting side by side with each other or working extremely hard to achieve something together?
2. Tell the group about a time you felt the closest to people in your life, family excluded.

Core:

1. How might the way that soldiers treat their fellow soldiers in war relate to the way Christians should relate to each other in the church?
2. Before we begin looking at our third value, spend some time talking about what you remember about our first two: **Biblical Authority** and **Relational Intimacy**.
3. Our third value is **Authentic Community**. How would you describe it? How is "Authentic" Community different than simply Community?
4. Our definition of Authentic Community is: *"Pursuing truth together is the best opportunity for truly living out and applying that truth."* How have you seen this to be true in your own life?
5. When you hear the phrase *"The church is a hospital for sinners, not a hotel for saints,"* how do you process that in light of your past church experience?
6. Read what Paul writes about authentic community in Ephesians 4:1-3. Which part of those verses do you need to work on in your current relationships?
7. Why is Paul's encouragement to the church in Ephesus applicable in the church today?
8. Now read verses 4-6. Why does Paul, after giving instructions to the people about how to treat each other, talk about how God is "one"?

Challenge:

1. Read through the story of the woman caught in adultery in John 8:2-11. What would you feel like in this situation if you were this woman?
2. The actions of the religious leaders taught the woman that the only way to stay safe is to hide your sin and lie about it—why do you think that we deal with our sin the same way today?
3. When you saw the people standing up during the service as Scott called out the questions, what went through your mind?
4. Based on what you saw at church, what is the next step for you to pursue Authentic Community?