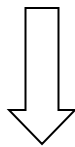


**Introduction:**

Why are there so many people **desperately hurting** and in need of love, and so many others who are so **willing** and **wanting** to give love, yet so few who actually get loved?

**What's the missing link?**



**6 Key Words:**

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**Thesis:** To fulfill Jesus' command to love one another, as He loved us ...  
... demands that we understand our membership and function in  
"HIS SUPERNATURAL COMMUNITY."

**You are members of a supernatural community:**

**What makes it supernatural?**

- It has a **supernatural** \_\_\_\_\_.

*<sup>1</sup>In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup>until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After His suffering, He showed Himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the Kingdom of God.*

Acts 1:1-3

- It has a **supernatural** \_\_\_\_\_.

*<sup>4</sup>On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>6</sup>So when they met together, they asked Him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority.*

Acts 1:4-7

- It has a **supernatural** \_\_\_\_\_.

*<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

Acts 1:8

**What makes it authentic community?**

- Possessing an accurate view of ourselves.

*For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.*

Romans 12:3

Key word = \_\_\_\_\_

- Nurturing a healthy appreciation of others.

*<sup>4</sup>Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so in Christ we who are many form one body, ...*

Romans 12:4-5a

Key word = \_\_\_\_\_

- Practicing a loyal allegiance to one another.

*... and each member belongs to all the others.*

Romans 12:5b

Key word = \_\_\_\_\_

**Application:**

1. No individual Christian can function effectively by himself/herself.
2. No member of the “supernatural community” is more or less important than anyone else.
3. We must “**get connected**” in real life relationships if we are to experience the reality that “we are members of one another.”

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do you think it is important to understand our unity/membership in God’s family in order to obey John 13:34?
2. What makes us a “supernatural” community? Why is this important?
3. What are the most common hindrances to us experiencing “real community” in our relationships?
4. Which of those hindrances are keeping you from receiving or giving love right now?
5. What are you going to ask God to do to help you with this hindrance?