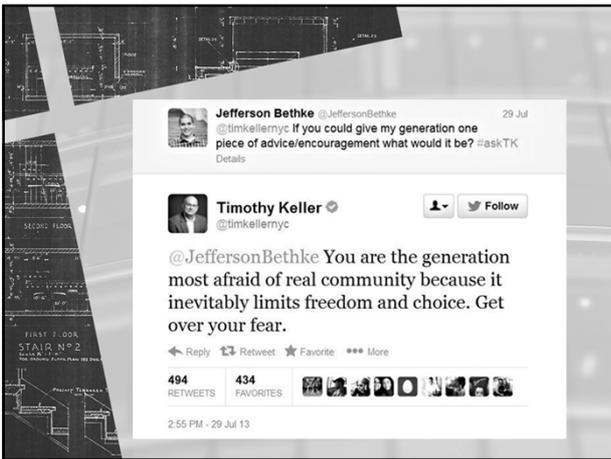
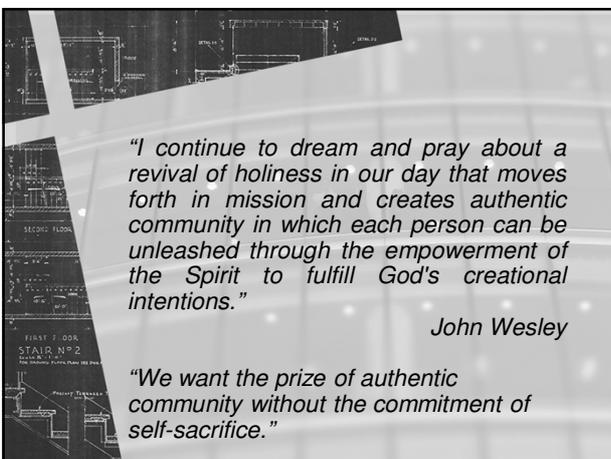


authentic community

the "God's building..." series

jan-george blignaut





a: Pattern for authentic community - Jesus' model

- **Crowds** – Mark 10:1
Jesus then left that place and went into the region of Judea and across the Jordan. Again crowds of people came to him, and as was his custom, he taught them.
- **72** – Luke 10:1-2
After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ²He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few."
- **12** – Luke 6:13
When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them

a: Pattern for authentic community - early church model

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

Acts 2:46a

Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

Acts 5:42

You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.

Acts 20:20

b: our need for authentic community

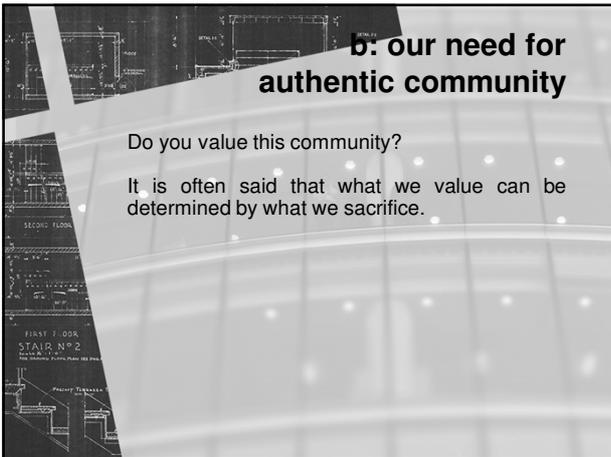
"You are the generation most afraid of real community because it inevitably limits freedom and choice. Get over your fear."

Tim Keller

- In Johannesburg
- In your circumstances

In our day and age we need to be more deliberate on engaging in authentic community or we run the risk of very superficial and shallow relationships.

- Those around us need authentic community



b: our need for authentic community

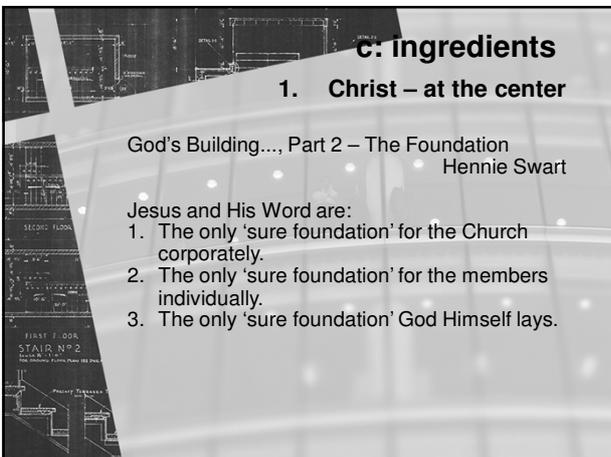
Do you value this community?

It is often said that what we value can be determined by what we sacrifice.



c: ingredients for authentic community

1. Christ - at the center



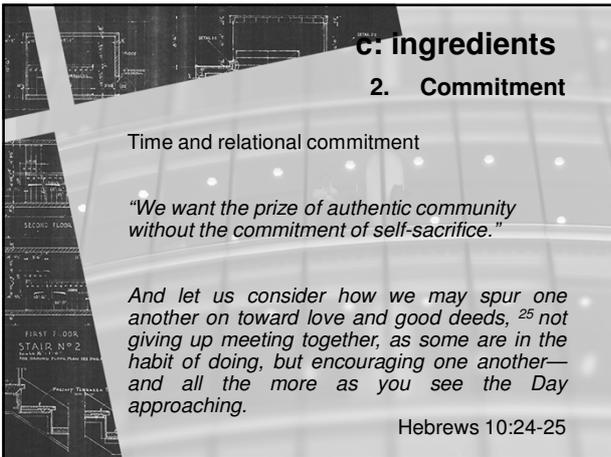
c: Ingredients

1. Christ – at the center

God's Building..., Part 2 – The Foundation
Hennie Swart

Jesus and His Word are:

1. The only 'sure foundation' for the Church corporately.
2. The only 'sure foundation' for the members individually.
3. The only 'sure foundation' God Himself lays.



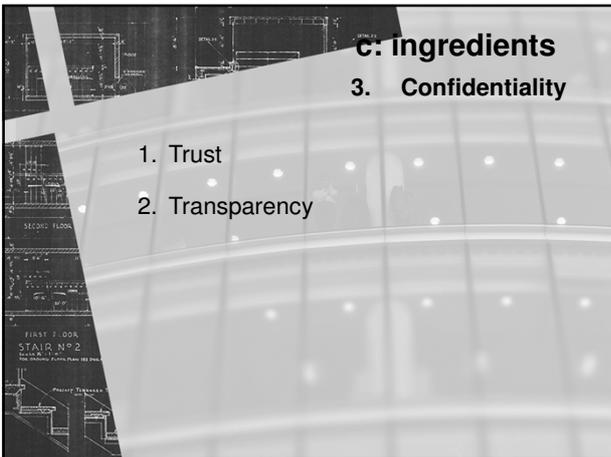
c: Ingredients
2. Commitment

Time and relational commitment

"We want the prize of authentic community without the commitment of self-sacrifice."

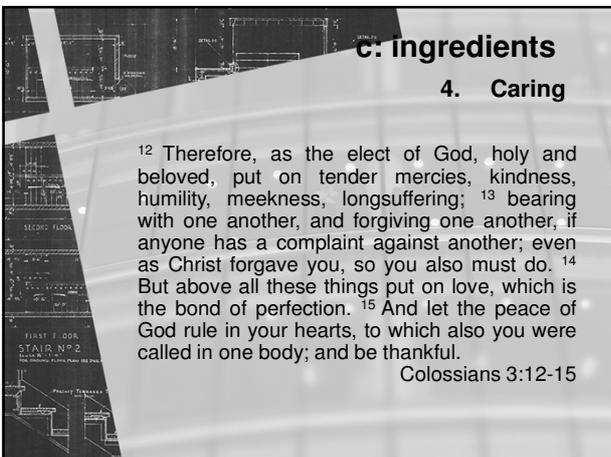
And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25



c: Ingredients
3. Confidentiality

1. Trust
2. Transparency



c: Ingredients
4. Caring

¹² Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. ¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Colossians 3:12-15

c: ingredients for authentic community

1. Christ - at the center
2. Commitment
3. Confidentiality
4. Caring

c: ingredients

5. Conflict

- real
- robust

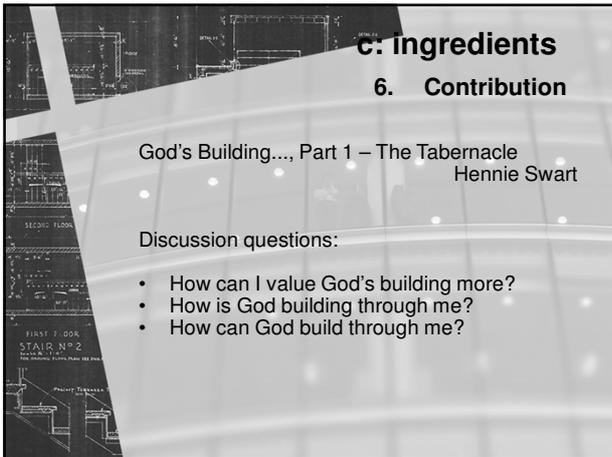
³³ Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?" ³⁴ But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest. ³⁵ And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."
Mark 9:33-35

c: ingredients

5. Conflict

Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. ³ Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.
Philippians 2:1-4

'as iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another'
Proverbs 27:17

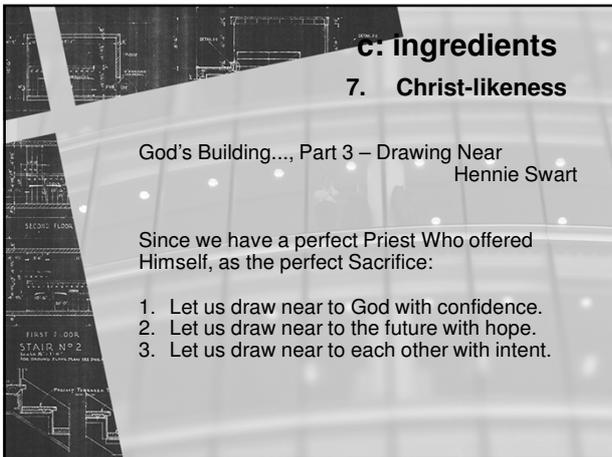


c: Ingredients
6. Contribution

God's Building..., Part 1 – The Tabernacle
Hennie Swart

Discussion questions:

- How can I value God's building more?
- How is God building through me?
- How can God build through me?

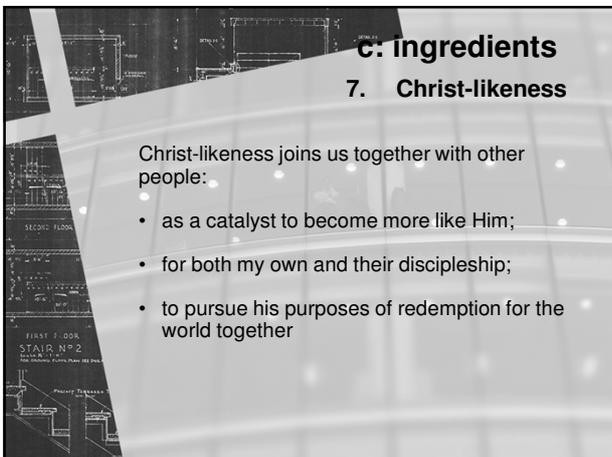


c: Ingredients
7. Christ-likeness

God's Building..., Part 3 – Drawing Near
Hennie Swart

Since we have a perfect Priest Who offered Himself, as the perfect Sacrifice:

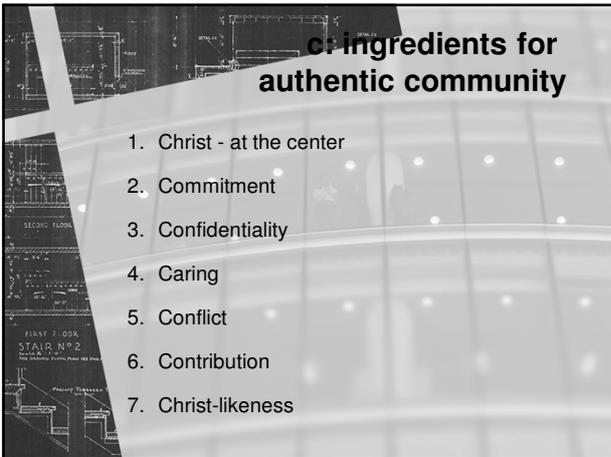
1. Let us draw near to God with confidence.
2. Let us draw near to the future with hope.
3. Let us draw near to each other with intent.



c: Ingredients
7. Christ-likeness

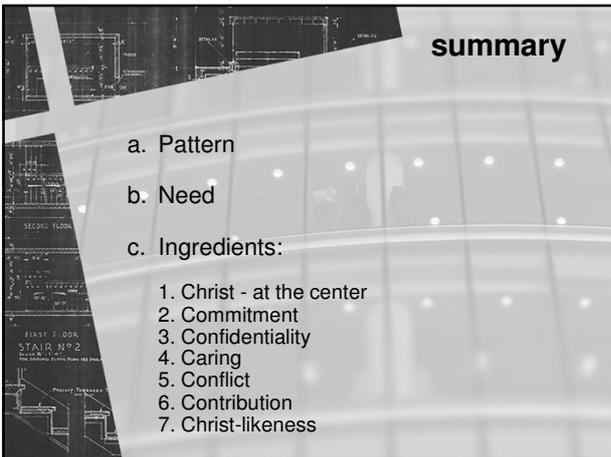
Christ-likeness joins us together with other people:

- as a catalyst to become more like Him;
- for both my own and their discipleship;
- to pursue his purposes of redemption for the world together



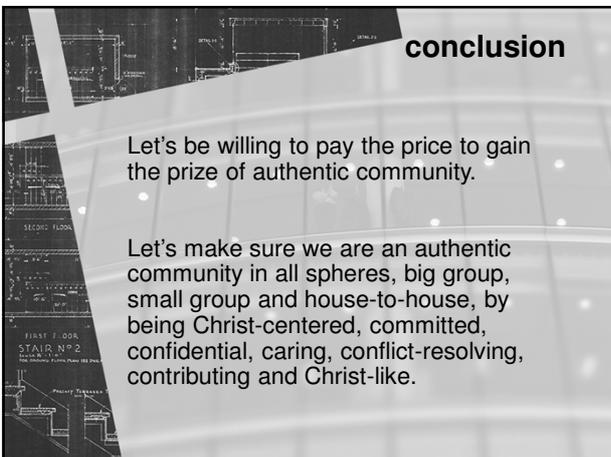
c. ingredients for authentic community

1. Christ - at the center
2. Commitment
3. Confidentiality
4. Caring
5. Conflict
6. Contribution
7. Christ-likeness



summary

- a. Pattern
- b. Need
- c. Ingredients:
 1. Christ - at the center
 2. Commitment
 3. Confidentiality
 4. Caring
 5. Conflict
 6. Contribution
 7. Christ-likeness



conclusion

Let's be willing to pay the price to gain the prize of authentic community.

Let's make sure we are an authentic community in all spheres, big group, small group and house-to-house, by being Christ-centered, committed, confidential, caring, conflict-resolving, contributing and Christ-like.

discussion questions:

1. Evaluate in which areas of our community (small/big/house-to-house) do you need to grow in.
2. Identify which areas with reference to the 'ingredients' mentioned you need to grow in.
3. Determine where you can and will make the change going forward.
