

September 26th, Membership Benefits
Part 4 in the series 'A New Community'

What do you remember from last Sunday's message?

What were some things that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

What is God's Kingdom?

What are the benefits of being a member of God's holy and dearly loved community?

If God's will were to be done in human relationships, what would that look like?

READ Acts 2:44-47

44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. **45** They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. **46** 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, **47** praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

What does the Acts 2 community look like? What are human relationships like?

READ Amos 9:13

13 "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills,

What does this verse tell us about the Kingdom of God?

Imagine this kind of abundance being reality in our world today. What do you think human relationships would be like?

READ Isaiah 2:4

4

He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

Unpack this verse a bit. How does it make you feel when imagining a world without war or disputes among nations?

READ Mark 1:14-15

14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. **15** “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

What do you think of Jesus’ command here, to repent and believe in the gospel?

We are invited into God’s Kingdom. His Kingdom is here, it’s at hand! But it’s also not yet arrived fully... we live in a ‘now *and* not yet’ period. So what does being a part of His Kingdom right now entail? What are we to do?

Potential answers:

Work in close partnership with God through prayer to see His Kingdom come and His will be done. Perhaps talk about the Lord’s Prayer and prayer that God’s Kingdom would come in our own lives and hearts.

Why is it disastrous to try to advance Gods kingdom and live out his will in your own strength and ability, and not in close connection with God?

What would it mean for God’s Kingdom to come in our own lives? How would this affect the Church as a whole (not just Hope Community Church but the entire Church)?