



A ROMANS 12 GUIDE FOR COACHES TO LIVE AS AUTHENTIC  
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

SESSION 7

# how to experience authentic community

part 1

*Let love be without hypocrisy.  
Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.  
Be devoted to one another in brotherly love;  
give preference to one another in honor;  
not lagging behind in diligence, fervent  
in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope,  
persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,  
contributing to the needs of the saints,  
practicing hospitality.*

Romans 12:9-13 (NASB)

The Bible knows nothing of *Lone Ranger Christianity*. Scripture says that we all belong to one another. In other words, you need a heart connection with a few other Christian coaches where you find support, love, encouragement, accountability, prayer, and friendship. So often as believers we only relate to other coaches at the surface level. This session will help you pursue authentic, life-affirming community.



**TAKE IT IN (WATCH THE VIDEO)**

When you are going to die,  
you tell people the things that are absolutely most \_\_\_\_\_ to you.

**A Command to His Followers**

*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*

**John 13:34-35 (NIV)**

The greatest apologetic in the world is Christians \_\_\_\_\_ Christians.

**A Prayer for His Followers**

*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.*

*May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me.*

*May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

*Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.*

**John 17:20-24 (NIV)**

**JOHN 17 IS THE ONE TIME IN THE BIBLE THAT  
JESUS PRAYED FOR YOU SPECIFICALLY.**

**Authentic Community Occurs When...**

The real you... (v.9)

meets real needs... (v.10)

for the right reasons... (v.11)

in the right way (v.12-13).

**The Real You Should Be Characterized By...**

\_\_\_\_\_ – “Let love be sincere.”

\_\_\_\_\_ – “Hate what is evil. Cling to what is good.”

At the heart of true community is \_\_\_\_\_.

**THE VERY FIRST SIN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH  
WAS DISHONESTY.**

Without \_\_\_\_\_ the command of John 13 and the prayer of John 17 would never become a reality.



**TALK IT OVER**

**(Consider breaking up into groups of 3-4 for the discussion time)**

1. Describe a time when you were around someone with whom you felt really free to be yourself.
2. Describe the closest friendship you ever had and what made that friendship so special.





**LIVE IT OUT**

1. Think of a coach you feel safe with and someone you'd like to get to know a little bit better. Take the initiative to get together with them. Ask them how they are really doing. Be willing to tell them how you are really doing.
2. This week write a letter to a coach who has provided true, authentic community in your life. Tell them what their friendship has meant to you and how their life has had an impact on you.



**DIVE DEEPER**

- I want to be involved in a small group community, but I'm an introvert. What should I do to get into a community?
- How can I help my small group stop "going through the motions" and start going deeper?
- How do I know when I'm acting like a hypocrite?
- How do I deal with someone that I feel is a hypocrite?