

# Values in Action

## 2. Community or Clique?

1. What 'groups' do you belong to? (Eg. Family, teams, friendship groups etc.) Which are most significant for you and why?
2. As well as the phrase 'The Church', the Bible uses a number of metaphors to describe the followers of Jesus collectively:
  - The body of Christ (Romans 12.5, 1 Corinthians 12.27)
  - The bride of Christ (Revelation 19.7)
  - The family of God (Hebrews 2.11)
  - A fellowship of believers (Acts 2.42)
  - A chosen people, holy priesthood and royal nation (1 Peter 2.9)
  - Citizens of the kingdom of heaven (Ephesians 2.19)
  - a. What associations do you have with each of those images?
  - b. What do you think those images were intended to convey?

*(N.b. You might want to draw a big spider diagram with people's associations - seeing them all written down can be quite powerful. If people get stuck look up the references.)*

3. What would you say is the difference between friendship and fellowship? How far should we all be friends with everyone in the church?
4. **Using the worksheet, ask each person to look up some of these verses and compile a list of what they teach about the way believers are expected to behave towards 'one another'?**

Which do you find easiest/most challenging?

John 13.43	Love one another
Romans 12.10	Outdo one another in showing honour
Romans 12.16	Live in harmony with one another
Romans 14.13	Do not pass judgement on one another
Romans 15.7	Welcome one another
1 Corinthians 1.10	Be in agreement with one another
2 Corinthians 13.12	Greet one another with a holy kiss
Galatians 5.13	Serve one another
Ephesians 4.2	Bear with one another
Ephesians 4.32	Be kind to one another
Ephesians 5.19	Sing psalms, hymns & spiritual songs to one another
Ephesians 5.21	Submit to one another
Colossians 3.13	Forgive each other
Colossians 3.16	Teach & admonish one another
1 Thessalonians 5.11	Encourage & build up one another
Hebrews 3.13	Exhort one another
Hebrews 10.24	Provoke one another to love & good deeds
James 4.11	Do not speak evil against one another
1 Peter 3.8	Have unity, sympathy & love for one another
1 Peter 4.9	Show hospitality to one another
1 Peter 5.5	Be humble with one another

5. How is it actually possible for a diverse group of people, with nothing in common but Jesus, to become a community where these things happen?
6. Where do you think we are strong and weak at these as a community in Kings? What might be some solutions to that?



7. a. Christians are often accused of being exclusive or cliquy. How far do you think that is a fair accusations and why do you think it can happen?
- b. How can we ensure we build a strong community but remain welcoming and open?

**Pray:**

For us as a church that we will all take responsibility to build a genuine Christian community. For those who are on the edges that they will find a sense of belonging at Kings and for us to continue to grow in hospitality towards outsiders.