

## **Cultivating Christian Community**

Cultivating Christian community is a vital part of worship. "Worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire... Keep on loving each other as brothers" (Hebrews 12:28-13:1). God is a "consuming fire." His very Being explodes with life, love, holiness, and joy. Following this reverent and glorious picture of God is a seemingly oddly placed exhortation, "Keep on loving each other as brothers" (Hebrews 13:1).

Because of the chapter division, which separates these two verses, one can easily miss the connection between acceptable worship and community. Do you see the relationship in the passage? "Worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for God is a consuming fire. Keep on loving each other as brothers" (Heb. 12:29; 13:1). Acceptable worship is characterized by loving one another in community. Christian community is a function of acceptable worship. If we are not engaged in Christian community, sharing with and in other people's lives, we are missing an essential ingredient in a vital, life-giving Christian life. Community is an integral part of worshipping God. This Sunday, as we focus inwardly on the cultivation of Christian community, the scriptural basis is Hebrews 10:19-25.

Great Peace in the Lord,  
Eddie