CHARACTERISTICS OF AN AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

1 Peter 3:8 "Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble."

1. HARMONY

1 Peter 1:8 "… be like-minded …"

John 17:20-23 "20 My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 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. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may **be one** as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me— so that they may be brought to **complete unity**. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." (NIV)

Philippians 1:27-28 "27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, **striving together as one** for the faith of the gospel 28 without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God." (NIV)

Philippians 2:1-2 "1 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being **united with Christ**, if any comfort from His love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being **like-minded**, having the same love, being **one in spirit** and of **one mind**." (NIV)

1 Corinthians 1:10 "10 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,[a] in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought." (NIV)

2. EMPATHY

1 Peter 1:8 "… be sympathetic …"

Romans 12:14 "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn." (NIV)

1 Corinthians 12:26 "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." (NIV)

3. FAMILY

1 Peter 1:8 "… love one another …"

1 Peter 2:17 "Show proper respect to everyone, love the **family of believers**, fear God, honor the emperor." (NIV)

1 Peter 5:9 "Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that they **family of believers** throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings." (NIV)

Ephesians 2:19 "So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family." (NLT)

Galatians 6:10 "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the **family of believers**." (NIV)

4. AFFECTIONATELY

1 Peter 1:8 "… be compassionate …"

Philippians 1:8 "God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus." (NIV)

Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind and **compassionate** to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (NIV)

5. HUMILITY

1 Peter 1:8 "… be … humble …".

Proverbs 16:18 "**Pride** goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." (NIV)

1 John 2:16 "For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the **pride** of life—comes not from the Father but from the world." (NIV)

Philippians 2:3-4 "3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." (NIV)

Romans 12:16 "Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited." (NIV)

BOTTOM LINE

Ephesians 3:12-19 "12 Now we can come fearlessly right into God's presence, assured of his glad welcome when we come with Christ and trust in him. 13 So please don't lose heart at what they are doing to me here. It is for you I am suffering, and you should feel honored and encouraged. 14-15 When I think of the wisdom and scope of His plan, I fall down on my knees and pray to the Father of all **the great family of God**—some of them already in heaven and some down here on earth— 16 that out of His glorious, unlimited resources He will give you the mighty inner strengthening of His Holy Spirit. 17 And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in Him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love; 18-19 and may you be able to feel and understand, as all **God's children** should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high His love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it. And so at last you will be filled up with God himself." (TLB)