

Everyone's Weird

- Do you agree with John's assertion that "people come as is" or that "everybody's weird?"

"We want to enter into community – especially new ones, as if this time we'll be in a place where the people are normal."

- Have you ever felt like this? Just wanting to find some normal people to be in a community with?

"We need to lose our illusions – those who love their dream of the Christian community more than the Christian community itself become the destroyers of that community even though their personal intentions may be ever so honest, earnest and sacrificial."

- What do you think about this quote?
- Why is it easy to dream about the Christian community being different?

"A friend is someone you are devoted to not just because of what they can do for you, not because they are useful to you, but just because they are your friend."

- What are the characteristics John gave of friendships?
- What are the characteristics John gave of community?
- In what ways do you think, "our society has badly confused friends with friendly people"?

John said, "Friendship takes place in spite of barriers".

- What barriers keep good friendships from forming and developing?
- What things can be done to facilitate the kind of friendship and community John is talking about?

- Who do you let carry your mat?
- To whom do you show your weaknesses and struggles?
- Who do you let see your brokenness?

"Friendships involve non-strategic servanthood."

- When's the last time you dug through the roof for a friend?
- When you performed a significant act of service?
- What's the level of servanthood in your life or your church?

"The greatest sign of the spiritually mature heart is that it loves Jesus and it loves people and is always trying to bring them together."

- How can you grow in this area?
- How can we grow in this area together?