Relating to Community #3: LOVE Trumps Everything!

1 Corinthians 13:1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

³ If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

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The Stumbling Dance of the Lost

Community #3 January 18, 2015

We exist to enjoy and share the love and message of God with everyone.

Relating to the lost, through humility.

Matthew 10:17 "Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues. ¹⁸ On <u>my</u> account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles.

Matthew 10:16 "I am sending you out <u>like sheep among</u> wolves. Therefore <u>be as shrewd as snakes</u> and as <u>innocent as</u> doves.

Lost people

Luke 19:9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

Jesus' attitude toward lost people

Luke 15:1 Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him.

Relating to lost people.

1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with <u>gentleness</u> and <u>respect</u>,

¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

"Gentleness" -

"Respect" -

² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ Then Jesus told them this parable:

⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?

⁵ And when he finds it, he **joyfully** puts it on his shoulders

⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, <u>'Rejoice with me</u>; I have found my lost sheep.'

⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.