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Online Discussion 1 - THE COMMUNITY @ QUMRAN

In the Community Rule and in Josephus, there were many similarities and few differences. In particular, both writings told of the group's sense of togetherness, selflessness and respect for one another. Material possessions were evenly distributed among themselves. This is what the Community Rule commanded: "All those who freely devote themselves to His truth shall bring all their knowledge, powers and possessions into the Community of God." In alignment with this, Josephus wrote: "...among them all there is no appearance of poverty or excess of riches, but everyone's possessions are intermingled with every other's possessions." Also, everyone engaged in the art of conversation. While one person spoke, the other respectfully listened. Every man had a voice. Verbatim, the Community Rule stated that: "No man shall interrupt a companion before his speech has ended." In congruence, Josephus documented that, "...they give everyone leave to speak in their turn."

Notable differences between the two documents were that Josephus mentioned women and marriage, but the Community Rule seemed to focus solely on men and their roles in the society.

I also saw a similarity between these groups who were a part of the Dead Sea Scroll community and the Christians in the New Testament. Acts 2:42 - 47 spoke about believers of Christ who created sacred spaces in time to the teachings of the Apostles, for prayer, for meals together and sold their belongings, so that no one was lacking.