



**ANCIENT FUTURE**  
Group Life Conference  
September 27-29, 2007

**COMMUNITY**

**Biblical Community**

**Gilbert Bilezikian**

## **Gilbert Bilezikian**

Dr. Bilezikian's professional life began in his native city of Paris, where he taught seven years at the European Bible Institute while serving, for part of that time, as minister of Christian education at the American Church in Paris. He came to the United States in 1961 to serve for five years as pastor of the Loudonville Community Church in Albany, N.Y. He then joined the Wheaton College faculty, where he taught for 20 years until his retirement. Dr. Bilezikian interrupted his tenure at Wheaton to assume the presidency of Haigazian College in Beirut, Lebanon and to teach briefly at Trinity College in Deerfield, Ill. He received a B.A. from the University of Paris, an M.Div. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and a Th.D. from Boston University. He also pursued a post-doctoral program at the Sorbonne in Paris. In addition to numerous articles, Dr. Bilezikian is the author of *The Liberated Gospel* (1977), *Beyond Sex Roles* (1985), *Christianity 101* (1993), and *Community 101* (1997), all of which have gone into multiple printings and been translated into several languages. Dr. Bilezikian is a founding leader of Willow Creek Community Church. As a professional theologian and a church growth expert, Dr. Bilezikian is frequently called to lead seminars and workshops in this country and abroad, and he is a popular lecturer at colleges and seminaries across the country. He is a speaker for the Staley Distinguished Scholar Lectures. Dr. Bilezikian and his wife, Maria, have four adult children.

## **Session Description**

Over 30 years ago, a college professor with a thick French accent cast a vision for Acts 2 community that was so compelling it captured the imagination of a young student named Bill Hybels. The practical result of that realized vision is Willow Creek Community Church. After three decades of refinement and trial by fire, Dr. B.'s understanding of biblical community is more clear and compelling than ever. Getting and proclaiming a clear understanding of these principles are one of the keys to sustaining a vibrant small groups ministry. In this breakout, you'll hear from a true original voice.

## **Recommended Resource**

*Community 101* by Gilbert Bilezikian