

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD THROUGH FELLOWSHIP (Acts 2:42-47)
February 4, 2024

Text: Read Acts 2:42-47

Main Idea—God has ordained that followers of Christ draw near to Him through Christian fellowship.

1. The Church Shared a Commitment to Scripture (Acts 2:42). The early believers devoted themselves to learning and studying the apostles' teachings. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teachings. The apostles were people specifically chosen by Jesus Christ to remember, teach about, and authentically record the events and meaning of his ministry. The early church continually devoted themselves to these teachings.

John 15:26-27; 2 Pet. 1:19-21

Matt. 28:19-20

2. The Church Shared a commitment to Each Other (Acts 2:42). Fellowship (**Koinonia** Gk) means "having in common, sharing, generosity, or partnership." Fellowship is the bond among Christians created by their common confession that Jesus Christ is Lord (**Rom. 10:9-10**). This fellowship is unique to the Christian community and because of it the Spirit leads us into commitment to our fellow Christian.

*Biblical fellowship is sharing with others what God is doing in your life (**Phil. 4:14-15**).

*Biblical fellowship leads us to care for one another and meet needs as God guides.

Acts 2:43-45; Acts 4:32-35

*Biblical fellowship provides unique blessings from God (**Gal. 6:1-2**).

Heb. 10:24-25

3. The church shared a commitment to worshiping together (Acts 2:42). The third spiritual practice of the early church mentioned here is worship. Breaking of bread stands for the communion service. Prayer refers to the formal exercise of prayer in the assembly (i.e. church), although it is something we can do individually and at different times.

1 Cor. 10:16

Acts 1:14

4. The church shared a commitment to witnessing together (Acts 2:47). The early church was devoted to sharing the Gospel with others. Their devotion to Jesus became a witness for the world to hear and see. Consequently they had “*favor with all the people and the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved (V47).*”

Rom. 1:16

Rom. 5:8-9

Gary Ricucci—The gospel, in brief, is the good news about the person and finished work of Jesus Christ. Consider for a moment that the eternal Son of God relinquished the glories of heaven to become a man, a human being like you and me. He lived a perfect and sinless life (unlike you and me), fulfilling every requirement of God’s holy law in a way we could never hope to accomplish. And then in a glorious display of God’s love for sinners like us, he willingly received the full fury of God’s righteous wrath against sin by dying for our sins on a cruel Roman cross. Because God’s absolute and perfect holiness demands an equivalent holiness from all who come before Him, in ourselves we are all hopelessly lost and condemned. But Jesus, who had no sin of his own to pay for, took our place, paid our penalty, and suffered our punishment. Because his death as our substitute was perfectly sufficient to pay for our sin, God vindicated him by raising him from the dead. So now all who place their trust in Jesus’ work on their behalf and turn from their sin will be forgiven, counted righteous in him, and saved from judgment for all eternity...all by God’s marvelous grace. This is the gospel. This is the good news. Better news simply does not exist!

Acts 5:42; 1 Cor. 1:18

Application—(Heb. 10:24-25). Here are some practical ways to apply this text to our lives:

- 1) Always seek to increase in personally studying and hearing God’s word.
- 2) Consistently be present at church for worship and fellowship on the Lord’s Day.
- 3) Fellowship in small groups. Take someone to lunch/dinner or invite them over and to talk about what God is doing & teaching you. Participate in specific ministries of this church family such as: men & women’s bible studies, young adults, youth, or prayer.
- 4) Live and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ whenever and wherever possible (**Acts 5:42**).