

The Fellowship of Believers

Acts 2:42-47; Acts 4:32-37

“The person who loves their dream of community will destroy community, but the person who loves those around him will create community.”

–Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Life Together

MAIN IDEAS

- The Fellowship of Believers shared extraordinary unity and intimacy through the power of the Holy Spirit. The first church was united in their devotion to the apostles’ teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer.
- Sharing life together was more than a group of individuals gathering for a teaching or a meal. They were united by transformed hearts and minds; changed from the inside out to love and serve Christ and one another.
- The goal is not community. The goal is to love the Lord your God with all your hearts, soul, mind and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself. (Luke 10:27) This is where genuine community is created.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in attaining and maintaining community?

What does this model of church life speak to your heart?

What personal fears stop you from pursuing this type of community?

What self-centered reasons might you have for desiring community? What role does the disposition of the heart and motives play in creating a healthy, God-honoring community?

Though the Bible never requires us to sell our possessions and lay the proceeds at the feet of the disciples for distribution, it does speak of giving. What does scripture teach us about generosity? (2 Cor. 9:10-15; Proverbs 11:25)

GROUP RESPONSE

In what ways does your Bible study, community/small group, prayer or accountability group share life together in Spirit-filled unity?

Change of a whole group first begins with the individuals. What areas of growth and change might you challenge yourself and encourage others in your group to consider in order to better love one another?

REPRODUCE

In what ways can you become a contributor to your church that would encourage the unity of the fellowship of believers?

Great power and great grace were given to believers by the Holy Spirit, creating in them the desire and ability to practice/exercise the fruit of the Spirit in service to one another. This power and grace has been granted to all who believe in the name of the Lord. Let your life and your words be a testimony of the power of Christ in your life. Consider discipleship through mentoring; getting one and/or being one.

KEY VERSES

From the sermon:

- Acts 2:42-47
- Acts 4:32-37

Additional verses from the study:

- Luke 27:10
- Proverbs 11:25
- 2 Cor. 9:10-15