



## Devoted - Fellowship

### Key idea:

God forms and deepens His people's delight in Him through the Spirit-given gift of fellowship — binding them to Christ and to one another in unity, worship, generosity, and shared mission.

### Key text:

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

### Key points:

1. **Fellowship Is More Than Socializing** — The Greek word *κοινωνία* (*koinōnia*) means participation, sharing, and communion — a deep bond that encompasses friendship, generosity, and partnership in the gospel.
2. **Fellowship with God Comes First** — When the Spirit regenerates us, we are called into fellowship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Every other form of fellowship flows from this divine communion.

3. **Fellowship with the Church Is Organic, Not Optional** — The Spirit who unites us to Christ simultaneously unites us to His Body. A disciple cut off from the life of the Church will wither, just as a limb severed from the body.
4. **Fellowship Is Expressed in Four Practical Ways** — True koinōnia shows itself in laboring for unity, worshiping and ministering together, caring for one another's practical needs, and partnering together in mission.
5. **Devoted Fellowship Requires Intentionality** — In an increasingly isolated and digital culture, experiencing true fellowship will not happen by accident. It demands the same devotion the early church gave to it.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. The word κοινωνία was used in the ancient world to describe the intimacy of the marriage relationship. What does it tell us about God's intention for Christian community that Luke uses this word in Acts 2:42?
2. Bret argued that fellowship with God is the foundation from which all other fellowship flows. How does this ordering change the way you think about the quality of your relationships within the church?
3. The teaching described our connection to the Body of Christ as organic rather than external — like a limb connected to a body. In what ways do you experience your relationship with your local church as organic? In what ways does it still feel more like a loose external association?
4. 1 John 1:1-3 shows that fellowship with God comes to us through the apostles' proclamation of Christ. How does this connect last week's teaching on the Word of God to this week's teaching on fellowship? Why does Luke list devotion to the apostles' teaching first in Acts 2:42?
5. Bret challenged the idea of "me and Jesus" Christianity, arguing that there is no solitary discipleship in the New Testament. Where do you see this individualistic tendency in yourself or in our broader church culture?
6. Ephesians 4:1-6 calls us to "eagerly maintain the unity of the Spirit" through humility, gentleness, patience, and forbearance. Can you think of a specific situation in your church life where practicing one of these virtues was costly? What made it difficult?
7. Acts 2:44-45 describes the early church selling possessions to meet one another's needs. How does Spirit-given fellowship change our relationship to our material resources? What might this look like practically in your life or in our congregation?

8. Philippians 1:5 uses *κοινωνία* to describe the church's partnership in the gospel. How might a deeper experience of fellowship within our congregation fuel a greater passion for gospel mission locally and around the world?
9. Acts 2:47 notes that the beauty of the early church's community drew outsiders in. In what ways do you think our fellowship as a church is visible and attractive to the surrounding culture? In what ways might it be less so?
10. Bret noted that in our isolated, increasingly digital culture, true fellowship will require deliberate devotion. What is one specific step you could take this week to deepen your participation in the fellowship of this church — whether in gathered worship, a connect group, serving, or mission?
11. The Lord's Table was described as the "Table of Fellowship" where we participate in Christ and are reminded of our unity with one another. How does receiving Communion together shape your sense of belonging to the Body of Christ?

### **For Further Study:**

For other teachings and resources to grow in your devotion to fellowship, take a look at the following:

- Re-listen to this teaching via podcast, or share it with someone who might benefit from it.
- Study 1 John 1:1-7 and reflect on the connection between fellowship with God and fellowship with one another.
- Read Acts 2:42-47 slowly and prayerfully each day this week, asking the Spirit to show you one area of fellowship to grow in.
- Visit the church website to explore teachings on [fellowship](#) for a deeper study of *koinōnia*.
- If you are not yet part of a Connect Group, take a step this week to join one — this is where fellowship most deeply flourishes beyond Sunday worship.