

Fellowship – Acts 2:37-47

After three months of 'Freedom in Christ' – during which time many people gained fresh understanding of what God is like, who they are in Christ and what the Biblical principles are for living victorious Christian lives – we now re-launch the church's Life Groups. It is clear that many people have missed meeting together in their groups and that there is an enthusiasm for being together again. This is a great encouragement as it is a sign that there is a genuine desire for fellowship across the church.

Acts 2:37-47 paints a picture of the early Church, still in its infancy, overflowing with God's love and infused with the life of the Spirit. When the Holy Spirit had been poured-out at Pentecost, the newly-filled believers poured into the street, led by the apostles, where Peter would preach the very first gospel message to an international crowd of Jewish believers: Repent and turn to Jesus; Be baptised; Receive the Holy Spirit...3000 did. The Jerusalem church grew from a modest-sized congregation to a mega-church in one day! There is little said about the mechanics of how they organised themselves as a church. What we do glimpse as we look on is the depth of love, commitment and passion shared by those first Christians. It both inspires and challenges us to give more and to expect more of our fellowship in the Church today.

The Greek work 'Koinonia,' often translated in the New Testament as the word 'Fellowship,' conveys the idea of communion by intimate participation. In other words, a deep love and commitment one-to-another expressed in a sharing of lives together. This takes our 'fellowship' over a cuppa at the end of the service onto an altogether different plane. As we begin to meet again as a Life Group, let's take some time to read through the passage in Acts 2 to see what this 'Koinonia' fellowship looks like in practice. Then let's think about how, as a group, we can emulate that depth of relationship and commitment to one another in our context today.

Study Questions

1. Share your positive experiences of fellowship with Christian brothers and sisters.
2. What are some of the things that cause people to 'draw back' from fellowship with other believers?
3. Read Acts 2:37-47. What impacts you most as you read this passage?
4. Look at v.42. What are the four things the believers devoted themselves to? Why are these so important?
5. Read verse 44. What, or who, do you think was the source of such unity (compare with Eph 4:1-6). What does this teach us about how to live as part of the family of God?
6. Read verse 45 (see also Acts 4:32-35; Luke 3:11 & 2 Cor 8:13-15). In your experience, how does the Church live up to this ideal today? How can we practically demonstrate such generosity in this day?
7. Read verse 46. What were the two contexts mentioned in which the Jerusalem church met? How does this compare to our church? Why are both important?
8. Read verse 47. What is the fruit of the 'Koinonia' of the previous verses? Why do you think this was the case? How does that apply to us today?

Pray

Spend some time praying for the group, and for all the church's Life Groups, that they may be environments where true, biblical fellowship can be experienced and where every person can grow to greater love and maturity in Christ.