

ACTS 2:42 (NASB)

⁴²They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

EPHESIANS 4:1-6 (NASB)

¹Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, ³being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴*There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

REVIEW

The early believers in the Church were *together* a lot! But it's *how they did life together* that demonstrated a profound commitment to one another as they grew in their faith and worshiped the Lord.

STUDY IT

Fellowship (Greek – *koinonia*, Acts 2:42): togetherness, intimacy, communion, common experiences. From the sermon: "Fellowship is the consistent commitment to the practice of showing up and staying involved."

- How were the early believers different from one another? And how does God bring *unity* to them?
- What is fellowship *in your words*?
- How is Christian fellowship unique?
- How did the believers' example of mutual care and commitment influence the development of the early church? (See Acts 4:32-35)
- How does such care/encouragement influence us today?

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus about God's calling to believers to show an exceptional kind of love toward one another.

- How do these attributes help someone practice divine love for others? (Eph 4:2)
 - Humility
 - Gentleness
 - Patience
 - Tolerance
- How does living at peace with one another, help us practice the unity in the Spirit? (v.3)
- Where does true *oneness* originate? (v.4) Why does this matter?
- Underline the word "one" in the passage. How does Paul connect the *oneness of God* with a community's oneness? (v.5)
 - How do our differences *interfere* with fellowship?
 - How is *oneness* possible in light of our many differences from one another?

APPLY IT

- In light of our current pandemic and social distancing requests – how are you able to experience fellowship?
- How might you add more healthy forms of fellowship to your life? How might this encourage your spiritual growth?
- Who are the people who *show up* and *stay involved* in your life?
 - How would you describe the benefits of these relationships?
 - How would you describe the consequence of a life absent of these relationships?