

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for January 3, 2010

“The Association of the Believers”
Acts 2:42-47

1. The devotion of the early believers (2:42)

The grammar of Acts 2:42 describes the new converts as devoted to two activities: the apostles’ teaching and fellowship.

- a. The apostles’ teaching is found in the New Testament

It is impossible to respond properly to God without giving proper attention to what He says.

- b. Fellowship is found in the breaking of bread and prayer

Fellowship (*koinonia*) means sharing in a close relationship.

The phrase “breaking of bread” was an idiom referring to the eating of a meal (Acts 2:46; cf. Acts 20:7, 11; 27:35).

This prayer was not just personal prayer but group prayer.

One of the most significant ways we can serve one another is by praying for each other and it is difficult to pray for those who you do not know.

2. The description of the early believers (2:43-47a)

The church in Acts 2 is marked by six shared activities.

- a. Spiritual unity (2:43)

Peter said that Jesus performed “wonders and signs” in Acts 2:22, and Jesus performed “wonders and signs” through His followers (Acts 2:43; cf. 2 Corinthians 12:12).

- b. Relational unity (2:44)

There is no substitute for being together with fellow believers in Christ.

- c. Material unity (2:44-45)

This had the sense of “they sold from time to time,” inferring this was not an immediate dissolution of all property (cf. Acts 4:32-37). The sharing was both voluntary and temporary.

d. Theological unity (2:46)

Thinking alike comes from devotion to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship. This is critical to preventing divisions in the church (1 Corinthians 1:10).

e. Emotional unity (2:46)

Sharing a meal together brings the opportunity for communication. In ancient eastern cultures, as in many places today, it is a true sign of friendship.

f. Worshipful unity (2:47)

The act of praising God moves us to holiness that is respectable to the world around us.

3. The duplication of the early believers (2:47b)

Note that it is the Lord who adds people to the church who become saved.

An outcome of true Christian fellowship is adding people who are being saved to the church, and an outcome of being saved is wanting to be added to a true Christian fellowship.

May the Lord move each of us toward commitment to one another that draws others to salvation.