

What A Fellowship!

Acts 2:41-47

In Acts 2:42 we read that one of the four things the early church devoted itself to was "fellowship." Fellowship was a very important part of their reason for meeting together. It was one of their objectives.

Fellowship Defined:

The Koinwn Words: "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship..." Fellowship here is from a Greek word "koinonos" which is where we get "koinonia". It means to share together, a companion, one who is a partaker, a participant in communion. "A partner, associate, companion" (2 Cor. 8:23; Luke 5:10; Phil. 1:7) or "A partaker, sharer" (1 Cor. 10:18-20; 2 Cor. 1:7; 1 Pet. 5:1; 2 Pet. 1:4).

The Metocos Words: (metocos, metoch) These words come from meta, "with," plus ecw, "to have." The basic idea is "to have with" or "to have together." Metocos means: (a) "a sharing in, a partaking of" (Heb. 3:1, 14; 6:4; 12:8); and (b), "a partner, associate" (Heb. 1:9; Luke 5:7). Metoch means: (a) "sharing, fellowship"; or (b) "partnership" (cf. 2 Cor. 6:14 where it is used with koinwnia).

Fellowship Developed:

A. Relationship-In the New Testament, what is shared in common is shared first of all because of a *common relationship* that we all have together in Christ. Fellowship is first and foremost a *relationship*, rather than an *activity*. The principle is that any activity that follows, should come out of the relationship.

B. Partnership-Both koinwnia and metocos mean to share together in the sense of a partnership. As sharers together of the person and life of Christ, we are automatically copartners in His enterprise.

C. Companionship-Companionship is the interchange or communication (*communion*) that exists among companions, those associated together through a relationship they hold in common. The key ingredient in companionship is communication.

D. Stewardship-A steward is one who manages the property of another. A steward is not an owner; he is a *manager*. As stewards we must recognize that all we have belongs to the Lord and has been given to us as trusts from God to invest for His purposes.

Fellowship Demonstrated:

1. Make things right with God.
2. Make things right in your home.
3. Care more about your relationships than your image.
4. Treat others with the same compassion that you desire.
5. Forgive and be forgiven.