

**Series Title:** Marks of a Disciple

**Part One:** Authentic Fellowship

**Text:** I John 1:1-4; John 17:20-26; Acts 2:42-47

### **Introduction:**

God wants us to have authentic fellowship with Himself as well as other believers. The only way we can have authentic fellowship is to have a relationship with God through Jesus. In John 17:20-24; Jesus calls us to be one with Himself and one with the Father just as Jesus is. In Acts 2:42-47 we see the church doing authentic fellowship as they focused on Christ and loved one another and sacrificed for each other.

### **Discussion.**

Do you believe you have authentic fellowship with God and others? Why or why not?

### **Examination.**

**I John 1:1-4** John tells his readers that they proclaimed to them what they have seen and heard. What are some of the things you think John shared? What did John see and hear in Jesus' day?

John is reporting on Jesus, who He is, what He's done, and what has been revealed to John and others so it would be possible to have fellowship together, and this fellowship goes way beyond a shared interest as golf, knitting, or classic cars.

Christian fellowship goes so much deeper than mere friendship because we have the same understanding of God's purpose, we share the same worldview of Christ dying for our sins, dying on the Cross, and returning to establish His Kingdom on Earth for us.

In Christian fellowship we share the same goal, to glorify God in all that we do.

### **Unified in Christ**

**John 17:20-26** speaks of Jesus praying for the disciples and us. His desire is for us to be united in Christ just as He is united with the Father.

Unity in Christ means more than mere agreement, it means to desire the same things God desires, His heart, His goal, His purposes for us.

**Acts 2:42-47:** What authentic fellowship looks like!

As a result of being filled with the Holy Spirit, the church made certain to support one another, provide for those who had need, pray together, learn together from the Apostles. As a result, many more were added specifically those who were being saved.

When we have Koinonia (fellowship), we share what we have seen and understood about God, we share our time by being together in worship, in Bible study, in prayer; and we look after one another through practical ways all while we are seeking God, deepening our relationship with Christ individually and collectively.

## **Application**

What are some ways we can teach others what we know about Christ so they too can share in the fellowship we have?

Often when we are excited about God's work around us; sharing becomes easier. How can you recapture that passion you've had with God in the past?

What are some ways we can ensure that we are unified with Christ as He prayed for in John 17:20-24? God often will bring us peace when we are seeking Him in difficult situations. When is a time you've had peace that passes all understanding, or when it was not logical to have peace, but God gave it to you? (See Philippians 4:6-7).

What are some examples of authentic fellowship you have seen at church or among Christians in your past? What is the difference between fellowship with Christians and non-believers?

Why do we struggle at times to have good fellowship with other Christians? (See John 17:20-24, Psalm 37:4)