Share Your Life in Fellowship November 14, 2021

*Acts 2:42-47 Series: The Unstuck Life: Believe. Connect. Share.*

Real fellowship is being as committed to each other as we are to Jesus Christ. – Rick Warren

Intro: What went wrong at Billy Graham’s events?

1. Devotion to Jesus involves devotion to His family
2. Repentance resulted in relationships

v. 42 *And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

Acts 1:14 *All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer …*

v. 46 *And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts …*

1. Relationships resulted in growth

v. 47 *praising God and having favor with all the people*

v. 47 *And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

1. Have you trusted in a “personal Jesus”?

* Why do you think only 6% of those who came forward at Billy Graham’s events were ever truly changed?
* Why is a “personal Jesus” so attractive to many people?
* What would it look like to be “devoted” to teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer today?

1. Sharing in Jesus’ life involves sharing your life with His followers
2. Jesus’ followers shared their lives with one another

v. 44 *And all who believed were together and had all things in common.*

v. 45 *And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.*

Hebrews 13:16 *Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*

1. Jesus’ followers learned to care for one another

2 Corinthians 13:12 *Greet one another with a holy kiss.*

Galatians 6:2 *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

1. “Not my circus, not my monkeys”?

* What do you make of the radical sharing that the early church practiced in this passage?
* What difference does greeting people make? Why is this so important?
* If we’re commanded to “bear one another’s burdens” how does that happen? How do people find out about your burdens? How do you find out about other people’s burdens?

1. Following Jesus involves following Him when the music fades
2. After the excitement of Pentecost, the trials came

Acts 5:1-2 *But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds …*

Acts 6:1 *Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.*

Acts 7:58 *Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him.*

Acts 8:18-19 *Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money …*

Acts 9:13 *But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem.*

1. Fellowship is a marathon not a sprint

1 Corinthians 1:10 *I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.*

Colossians 3:13 *bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.*

Galatians 5:13 *do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another*

1 Peter 4:9 *Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.*

Hebrews 3:13 *But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*

* What made it impossible to keep up the level of fellowship that the early followers practiced in Acts 2:42-47?
* How could widows be overlooked (Acts 6:1) in a church that was so caring and generous?
* What does it mean to bear with one another? Why is that necessary?
* Where do you most need prayer in working at your devotion to fellowship?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study 1 Corinthians 12:14-27.

Notes