

The Ministries of the Church: Fellowshiping with God's People

(Acts 2:42-47)

Sunday, April 15

Fellowship is not simply two fellows in the same ship. What if the two fellows are unbelievers, or atheists or two selfish believers out of fellowship with God.

The first church was a model church but not a perfect church as the rest of Acts clearly shows. We can focus on the imperfections or our perceived imperfections of the church; we should focus on the blessings of the church. This is what Luke does in Acts 2:42-47.

Luke describes five ministries that all churches should be practicing. These are interrelated.

1. *Teaching God's Word*
2. *Fellowshipping with God's People*
3. *Worshipping God*
4. *Serving in God's Work*
5. *Evangelizing the Unsaved*

1. Teaching God's Word (Acts 2:42a)

2. Fellowshiping with God's People (Acts 2:42b)

A. Fellowship is a God centered ministry.

The Trinity fellowship with each other (John 17:24). We are created in the image of the Trinity.

We are "The people of God" the Father not His individuals. The church is the "body of Christ," not separate parts. Most of all, the church is "Temple of the Holy Spirit" according to 1 Corinthians 3:16 (John Hammett, *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches: A Contemporary Ecclesiology*, page 225).

To fellowship with believers God has to be our Father, we have to be in the family of God, we have to be a functioning member in the body of Christ, Christ has to be our Head, and the Holy Spirit has to be in control of our lives.

B. Fellowship means to participate with one another both spiritually and physically.

1) Fellowship participates spiritually:

a) The early church had prayed together for 10 days.

b) There are 31 one another passages in the NT (NT (Rom 12:10,16; 14:13; 15:7, 14,16; 16:16; 1 Cor 4:6; 6:1; 11:33; 12:15; Gal 5:13, 15, 26; 6:2; Eph 4:2, 32; 5:21; Col 3:9; 1 Thes 4:10; 5:11, 15; Heb 10:24; James 5:9, 16; 1 Pet 4:9, 10) (Fellowship is based on the Word)

2) Fellowship participates materially:

- a) The early church helped each other materially (Acts 2:44-45)
 - b) “The most frequent usage of *koinonia* in NT is for the sharing of material needs (Phil 1:5; 4:14-16; Romans 12:13; 15:26-27; 2 Cor 9:13; 1 Tim 6:18; Heb 13:16). Fellowship results in the Worship of God.
- 3) Fellowship also results in serving other believers and witnessing to the lost (John 13:34-35). Love for one another leads to evangelism for “all men”