

“Our Spiritual Family”
Acts 2:42-47
Sermon Series: “More Than A Building”

Introduction: This topic that we are looking at today seems like it would be one of the most easily accepted topics that I could preach about, but it will actually be hard to receive for some of you, at least in the sense of the actual practice of it. I think all of us will agree in theory that a common life, partnership in the gospel, love, unity, caring for one another, and meeting another’s needs sounds good. However, the actual practice of it is much, more challenging if we are honest about it. Why?

- People are difficult.
 - You may have been hurt in church.
 - Personality
 - Busyness
 - Wrong perceptions (fellowship hall, red Kool-Aid and old cookies, potlucks, people smoking on the church porch, gossip/criticism, you may have seen that Christianity is an individual experience)
 - Our culture as seen in home architecture and screens
- So it may be challenging but talk about why we need it and what it looks like**

Main Idea: The church is not a physical building but a spiritual family made up of people sharing a common life in Christ.

1 John 1:1-3, Ephesians 2:14-16, 19-22

This fellowship is an actual reality, and it is both vertical with Jesus and horizontal with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Acts 2:42-47

What are some expressions of this fellowship (common life) that we see in this text?

1. Fellowship is expressed by unity.

-“with one accord”

-Ephesians 4:1-3

-How do we keep the unity of the Spirit and live in accord?

A. Live obediently under the Lordship of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:1-3, Colossians 1:8).

B. Be in one accord doctrinally agreeing on the essentials of the faith (Jude 3) and charitably agreeing to disagree on secondary matters (Romans 14:1).

C. Pursue the one mission that Jesus gave the church together (Matthew 28:18-20).

D. Be committed to do what it takes to maintain relational unity.

-Talk to each other instead of about each other (Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 18:15-18).

-Ask for forgiveness and forgive each other as needed (Ephesians 4:32)

2. Fellowship is expressed by taking care of each other.

Generosity but not communism like some people turn this into (v. 46, 5:1-4, 11:27-30)

3. Fellowship is expressed by gathering together.

A. Gathering together in corporate worship (v. 46-47, Hebrews 10:24-25)

B. Gathering together in small groups (Acts 2:46, 5:42, 20:20)