

The Spirit-filled Church (Part Two)

Introduction

A. Our text is Acts 2:42-47

B. Last Sunday we started our look at “The Spirit-filled Church”

1. It is a **dedicated** church

2. It is a **learning** church

C. This morning we will focus-in on **another characteristic** of a Spirit-filled Church—It is a **loving church**

Loving Church

[2:42](#)⁴² And they continued steadfastly in...fellowship

[2:44-47](#)⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

A. The keyword here is “fellowship”

B. The Greek word translated “fellowship” in 2:42 is “koinonia”

1. It appears **19 times** in most editions of the Greek New Testament

2. “Koinonia” comes from the word “koinos”; meaning, “common”

3. In our English Bibles, “koinonia” is translated: “fellowship”, “sharing”, “participation”, and “contribution”

C. “Koinonia” bears witness to the **common life** of the Church in two senses:

1. First, it expresses what we **share in** together

a. This is evident in our “fellowship” with one another

b. “Fellowship” means, “to share in common”

c. In fellowship, Christians “share in common”—

i. A common life—

aa. We share a common life in **God**

1 John 1:3

³...truly our fellowship is with the **Father** and
with **His Son Jesus Christ**.

2 Corinthians 13:14 (NIV)

¹⁴May the...fellowship of the **Holy Spirit** be with you all.

bb. We share a common life as the **children of God** and the **community of God**

Ephesians 2:19-22

¹⁹You are no longer strangers and foreigners, but **fellow citizens with the saints** and **members of the household of God**,
²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

ii. A common faith—

2 Peter 1:1 (NLT)

¹I am writing to you who **share the same precious faith** we have.

Ephesians 4:4-6

⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

iii. A common salvation—

Jude 1:3

³Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our **common salvation**, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

iv. A common future—

Philippians 3:20-21 (NLT)

²⁰We are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.

²¹He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

a. **“Fellowship”** happens when God’s people gather together, sharing the common life in God

i. We worship God together

ii. We serve and encourage one another

iii. This happens in **church services** and **home groups**—

“⁴⁶So continuing daily with one accord in the **temple**, and breaking bread from **house to house**”

e. “Fellowship” is an essential component in the Christian life

i. The first Christians were devoted to it—

Acts 2:42 ⁴²“They were continually devoting themselves to...fellowship” (NAS)

Acts 2:46 ⁴⁶“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house...”

ii. The New Testament commands us not to neglect it—

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

²⁴Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

iii. In fact, fellowship is such a great privilege that when a so-called “Christian” continues in sin with an unrepentant heart the Bible instructs the Church to exclude him from it—

1 Corinthians 5:11

¹¹I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.

iv. We should esteem Christian fellowship, and be devoted to it

f. Christians need each other to grow and progress in the Christian life

- i. Real spiritual growth requires more than just information—it requires **relationships**

- ii. **For example**, when coals are burning together, there is fire and heat. When one coal becomes separated from the rest, it cools down, and will eventually cease to burn.

- iii. God designed fellowship for our spiritual growth and progress

- iv. Personal interaction lets us in on the struggles and joys of other Christians, and gives us an opportunity to love, support, and serve each other

- v. Also, it is through the frustration and diversity of relationships with people that God can best bring us to maturity

- vi. Christians should not be isolated and disconnected; instead, “sharing in common life” one with another

g. Application:

- i. We need to come together in love, faith, and encouragement—this is the essence of “fellowship”

- ii. To do this, it requires us to have a **Christ-like attitude** toward one another—

Philippians 2:1-5 (NLT)

¹Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? ²Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each

other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

³Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ⁵You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

iii. Christ-like attitude leads to Christ-like actions expressed toward others—this shows up in “fellowship”

iv. A practical example of what “fellowship” should look like can be found in a study of the phrase “one another” in the Bible:

aa. Be devoted to one another

Romans 12:10 (ESV)

¹⁰Love **one another** with brotherly affection.

bb. Honor one another

Romans 12:10 (ESV)

¹⁰Outdo **one another** in showing honor.

cc. Live in harmony with one another

Romans 12:16 (ESV)

¹⁶Live in harmony with **one another**. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited.

dd. Accept one another

Romans 15:7 (ESV)

⁷Welcome **one another** as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

ee. Serve one another in love

Galatians 5:13 (ESV)

¹³You were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve **one another**.

ff. Show hospitality to one another

1 Peter 4:9 (ESV)

⁹Show hospitality to **one another** without grumbling.

gg. Be kind and compassionate to one another

Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)

³²Be kind to **one another**, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

hh. Encourage one another

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV)

¹¹Encourage **one another** and build one another up, just as you are doing.

ii. Admonish one another

Colossians 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing **one another** in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

jj. Stir one another on toward love and good deeds

Hebrews 10:24 (ESV)

²⁴Let us consider how to stir up **one another** to love and good works...

kk. Love one another

1 Peter 1:22 (ESV)

²²Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love **one another** earnestly from a pure heart...

v. That is what true biblical “fellowship” should look like

2. Second, it expresses what we share out together

a. Besides “fellowship”, “koinonia” is also translated “**contribution**” in Romans 15:26 and “**sharing**” in 2 Corinthians 9:13—

Romans 15:26-27

²⁶...it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain **contribution** for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. ²⁷It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things.

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

⁶But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. ⁹As it is written:

“He has dispersed abroad,
He has given to the poor;
His righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, ¹¹while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. ¹²For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, ¹³while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal **sharing** with them and all men, ¹⁴and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

b. Real fellowship is not just verbal; it is practical

c. It looks for tangible ways to show **love** to others—

1 John 3:16-18

¹⁶By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. ¹⁷But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

James 2:14-17

¹⁴What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? ¹⁷Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

d. This is what we see in Acts 2:44-45—

2:44-45 ⁴⁴Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

i. This is not “**communism**”; instead, “**common-ism**”

aa. “**Communism**” says, “What’s yours is mine.”

bb. “**Common-ism**” says, “What’s mine is yours.”

ii. This was a **temporary practice** in the church in Jerusalem

aa. These 3,000 new believers were from different lands and countries, and they wanted to stay in Jerusalem to learn more about Jesus

bb. The early church pulled their resources together in order to meet the needs of these visiting Christians

cc. As all these new, growing Christians went back to their homelands there was no more need for this communal community

dd. This was all motivated by **love**

e. In fellowship, we show our love for each other by being generous with our **time, talents, and treasures**

Conclusion

A. We need each other

Illustration: The huge redwood trees in California are amazing. They are the largest living things on earth and the tallest trees in the world. Some of them are 300 feet high. You would think that trees that large would have a tremendous root system, reaching down hundreds of feet into the earth but that is not the case. Redwoods have a very shallow root system. The roots of these trees are, however, intertwined. They are tied in with each other: intermingled, interlocked, interconnected. Thus, when the storms come and the winds blow the redwoods still stand...together. On its own, an individual redwood tree would have a hard time remaining upright but firmly rooted with others, it can stand.

B. Let's continue to maintain fellowship one with another