

Fostering Biblical community

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.
(Acts 2:42-47)

It's hard for us to imagine how hard it must have been for the fledgling New Testament church. Jesus has ascended into heaven, the promised Holy Spirit has fallen, Peter preached to the crowds at Pentecost, and 3000 people spontaneously decided to submit their lives to Jesus. The apostles were completely unprepared to deal with such a scenario. There was no "How To Organize A Church" instruction manual. What are they supposed to do now?

Thankfully, the Holy Spirit knew what to do, and He was on hand to lead them.

We might think that Biblical community is intuitive, but it's not. When you throw a bunch of people together from different backgrounds with vastly different preferences (and stir in a handful of rookie leaders), relational struggles are inevitable. But when you read the above passage, it feels like these people were having a great time.

The point is that Biblical community requires 1.) commitment to the process, and 2.) a lot of hard work. Even with those two elements, though, the participants must keep their eyes on the prize. Community makes going to church fun. Tight, sharing relationships make the missional journey rewarding. When struggles come (and they surely will), a group of friends will always help us persevere.

God has called City Church to impact our environment. That will happen only when we put our fellowship on display, just like the New Testament church did. When they see how much we genuinely care for one another, they will want to be part of what God is doing among us.

Pray

Lord, show me how to be available to people in my fellowship who may need me, as I am sure that I will need them one day.



Monday, January 15th

RECURRING NEEDS

Revival
Repentance
Wisdom
Marriages
Families
Sick/Grieving
Depression/Mental illness
City Church
Church leaders
Children
Youth
Singles
Senior citizens
Volunteers
Teachers and support staff
Emergency personnel
Business community
Elected officials
Missionaries
Worldwide church
The lost

REFLECTIONS
