

Fellowship

Acts 2:42-47

FINDING
RHYTHM

LIFE UNDER JESUS' EASY YOKE



Almost no one likes the word “fellowship,” not even Christians. It sounds so religious, so bland and insipid. It’s not that we don’t want community; we just want it authentically. And “fellowship” doesn’t sound real or high-quality. It sounds like vending machine coffee when there’s Starbucks around the corner. It sounds like imitative CCM when there’s real rock and roll. But just because some have cheapened fellowship doesn’t mean they’ve invalidated it. The real *koinonia* we read about in the New Testament is the very thing God desires to give us more of—and not just amongst ourselves but with the omnipotent love and joy of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Like John writes in his first epistle: “We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete” (1 John 1:3-4).

1. What’s the worst form of so-called “fellowship” you’ve ever experienced? What’s the best and truest form?
2. Fellowship means holding something deep in common with others; of having a share in something significant which creates an intimate bond and mutual commitment. For Christians, that commonality is Christ. It’s his gospel and grace, and our commission to grow in it as we share it with others. Thus Christian fellowship is not just something we have, but something we are and do.
 - Honestly, how compelling is that to you?
 - Why do you think so many church people are so “ho-hum” when it comes to fellowship?
3. Read Acts 2:42-47.
 - What do you find most attractive about this fellowship?
 - What about it do you think would be most difficult for us to emulate? Is there a way through the difficulties, or is it just impossible? (Try conceive of a path forward.)
4. In the sermon, three aspects of fellowship were discussed: relationship, mission, and generosity. Read the following references and discuss how you can take each to heart and apply it to your life.
 - **Relationship — Romans 12:4-5**
 - **Mission — Philippians 1:3-5; 2:25-30**
 - **Generosity — 2 Corinthians 8:1-4**
5. In *The Incendiary Fellowship*, Elton Trueblood wrote: “The early Christian fellowship was amazing to the contemporary Romans precisely because there was nothing in their experience that was remotely similar. Religion they had in vast quantities, but nothing like this. Much of the uniqueness of Christianity, its original emergence, consisted of the fact that simple people were members one of another. As everyone knows, it is almost impossible to create a fire with one log, even if it is a sound one, while several poor logs make an excellent fire if they stay together as they burn. The miracle of the early church was that of poor sticks making a grand conflagration.”
 - Pray that God would revive our church and build us into a God-glorifying, world-converting “grand conflagration.”