The Fellowship of the Saved

Acts 2:42-47 (ESV) And they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking	g
of bread and the prayers and awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through	1
the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their	
possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the	,
temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, prais	ing
God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being	
saved.	

The early church made <u>disciples</u>, not just <u>converts</u>.

- Acts 2:42 (ESV) "And they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."
- Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV) "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The early church embraced diversity.

- Acts 2:44a (ESV) "And all who believed were together..."
- Colossians 3:11 (NLT) "In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us."

The early church put people first.

- Acts 2:44b-45 (ESV) "... and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need."
- James 2:15-16 (NLT) Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

The early church lived out their faith together and it was contagious.

- Acts 2:46-47 (ESV) "And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."
- Hebrews 10:25 (NLT) "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."
- Acts 16:5 (NLT) "So the churches were strengthened in their faith and grew larger every day."

How have you experienced (or not) fellowship and welcome at a church? What helped you feel a part of things here? How do you feel you can be more involved in fellowship for yourself? How can you encourage others to join in? Can you think of someone to invite today? Are there others in this church that you might be able to help right now?

6/4/2023 Guest Speaker: Luke McKinnon

