



Study Guide
Sunday 6 May 2021
Acts 2.42-47 – The Church: Version 1

Please read Acts 2.42-47

1. The word 'together' is mentioned 3 times in these verses. What kinds of togetherness are described?

The phrase "They devoted themselves" are the first words ever written about the first church. This word for 'devoted' is used 10 times in the Greek NT, and it carries the sense of being dedicated to, focused on, committed to, persistent in.

2. In our society today what kinds of people are generally described or considered to be 'devoted'?
3. What characterizes someone who is devoted to the apostles' teaching? What are the blessings and benefits of this kind of devotion?

v42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship.

Koinonia is the Greek word used here for 'fellowship'. It appears in the New Testament 19 times and covers the ideas of - Partnership, community, communion, joint participation, sharing and intimacy. Fellowship is about socializing together with spiritual purpose.

V 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. v46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.

4. How might we help each other to keep on being devoted to the awesome privilege of fellowship as we adapt and change during - and hopefully emerge from – the pandemic restrictions? How might we encourage those who have lost their devotion to fellowship?

v44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. John Stott says, 'Christian fellowship means Christian Caring, and Christian Caring means Christian Sharing.'

5. How have you experienced this kind of fellowship in the last 16 months, and how might you help in extending it to others in the church fellowship?
6. What can we learn from migrating geese about fellowship?!

v46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

7. Why is devotion to the breaking of bread and prayer so vital?