

Greetings in the name of the LORD and savior Jesus Christ.

FELLOWSHIP THAT FLOWS FROM CHRIST

Series: Fellowship

Texts: Acts 2:42-47; 1 John 1:1-3

Dear Church Family, today we turn our attention to the subject of *fellowship*, as we look at one of the clearest descriptions of church life found in Scripture. Acts 2:42 declares, *"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."* This passage is not merely a record of early Christian practice; it reveals the transformation that takes place when people are fully shaped by Jesus Christ—a community changed from the inside out.

We need to understand what is happening in Acts. The Holy Spirit has been poured out. Peter has preached Christ crucified and risen. Thousands have repented, believed, and been baptized. And immediately, we see a new kind of life emerging together, life in unity, life marked by love, devotion, and spiritual power. The church did not begin as an organization looking for activities; it began as a family formed by the gospel.

But we must be careful. We can read Acts 2:42 and treat it like a religious routine: "If we do these four things, then we will have fellowship." Yet the Bible teaches that the true foundation of fellowship is not routine; it is relationship, relationship with God through Jesus Christ. This is why we must also hear the voice of the apostle John in 1 John 1:1-3. John tells us that the apostles are not proclaiming ideas; they are proclaiming a Person. He says they heard Him, saw Him, looked at Him closely, and touched Him with their hands. John is saying, "We encountered the living Christ, and because of that, fellowship is now possible."

So Acts 2:42 shows us the *pattern* of fellowship in the early church, and 1 John 1:1-3 shows us the *source* of fellowship. Here is the big idea for today: **Christian fellowship flows from Jesus Christ.** It begins in Him, it is sustained by Him, and it leads us back to Him. When Jesus is central, these four devotions become life-giving streams that nourish the church. When Jesus is not central, even good practices become empty rituals. So let's walk through Acts 2:42 with Jesus at the center, and let's allow 1 John 1:1-3 to deepen our understanding and stir our hearts.

1. APOSTOLIC TEACHING – Apostles means one who sent

Acts 2:42 begins with this statement: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching." This is where fellowship begins *apostolic fellowship*. This phrase means that the church gathered around the teaching of the apostles, the men chosen by Jesus, commissioned by Jesus, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel and lay the foundation of the church. The apostles were not simply teachers; they were witnesses of the risen Christ. Their authority did not come from human education or personal charisma; their authority came from Christ Himself.

This is why John begins 1 John 1:1 with such intensity. He says, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched, this we proclaim concerning the Word of life." John is telling us that Jesus is not a distant concept. He is the eternal Son who entered time and space. The phrase "from the beginning" points to Jesus' eternal nature, He did not begin to exist when He was born in Bethlehem. He is the eternal Word. But John goes further: this eternal Christ became so near, so real, so tangible, that the apostles heard Him with their ears, saw Him with their eyes, examined Him up close, and touched Him with their hands.

Church, that is astonishing. God did not shout salvation from heaven; He brought salvation to earth in the Person of His Son. The apostles sat with Jesus, walked with Him, listened to His words, watched His miracles, saw His compassion, and witnessed His suffering. They saw Him arrested. They saw Him crucified. And after His resurrection, they saw Him alive again. The apostles' teaching, therefore, is not moral advice; it is gospel proclamation. It is Jesus-centered truth.

This matters deeply for fellowship. Fellowship cannot survive on shared feelings alone. Fellowship must be anchored in truth, truth about who Jesus is and what He has done. The early church was united because they were not united around opinions. They were united around Christ. When the apostles taught, they were proclaiming the Word of life. John even says in 1 John 1:2, "The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it." Notice that: *life appeared*. Jesus did not merely bring life; He is life. He is the living revelation of God. When the apostles preached Jesus, they were bringing the church into contact with life itself.

Today, we continue in apostolic fellowship by devoting ourselves to the Scriptures. We do not have living apostles in the foundational sense, but we have their testimony in God's

Word. When a church is devoted to Scripture, it remains devoted to the Christ the apostles proclaimed. That's why sermons, Bible study, discipleship, and teaching matter. This is not just education; it is fellowship around Jesus. When we sit under the Word together, Jesus is shaping us together. The Word corrects us, comforts us, unites us, and matures us. It teaches us the character of Christ and forms the culture of Christ in our community.

So let me ask us plainly: Are we devoted to the apostles' teaching? Are we hungry for Christ revealed in the Word? Do we open Scripture with expectation, not as a duty but as a meeting place with the living Jesus? Apostolic fellowship is the first pillar of Acts 2:42 because without it, the rest collapses. If Christ is not central in our teaching, fellowship will become shallow. But when Christ is central, fellowship becomes strong because it is anchored in truth.

2. FELLOWSHIP

Acts 2:42 then says, "They devoted themselves...to fellowship." The word used here describes sharing, participation, and partnership. It is not merely the idea of being in the same place. It is the reality of sharing the same life. And the question is: What life were they sharing? The answer is: **the life of Christ**.

This is where 1 John 1:3 becomes so powerful. John says, "We proclaim to you that 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." John is explaining that Christian fellowship is not just horizontal; it is vertical. It is not merely friendship; it is communion. And that communion has a direction: it begins with fellowship with the Father through the Son.

This means that the church's fellowship is not built first on human relationships; it is built first on divine relationships. We have fellowship with one another because we share fellowship with God. The early believers could share meals, share resources, share burdens, and share joy because they shared Christ. Their fellowship was the overflow of their union with Jesus.

Now let's slow down and expand a beautiful truth: *abiding in Christ, held in His hands, and Christ in the Father's hands*. This is a powerful picture of security and belonging. When we abide in Christ, we are not clinging to Him by our strength; we are held by Him in His strength. Jesus taught that His sheep are secure in His hand, and that no one can snatch them away because He and the Father are one. So here is the beauty: if I am in Christ's hand, and Christ is one with the Father, then my life is held in the fellowship of God

Himself. This is not fragile. It is not uncertain. It is not based on my mood, my performance, or my consistency. It is based on Christ's faithfulness and the Father's power.

And church, when you live with that security, changes how you treat people. When you don't feel secure, you often become defensive. You protect yourself. You hide. You compete. You avoid vulnerability. But when you know you are held in Christ, you can open your life. You can confess. You can forgive. You can serve. You can love without fear because you are not trying to earn belonging, you already belong.

This is why the fellowship in Acts 2 was so sacrificial. Acts 2:44–45 says they shared their possessions and met needs. That kind of generosity comes from security, not scarcity. When you know you are held by Christ, you stop living like you might lose everything. You start living like you have already received the greatest gift, Jesus Himself. And when Christ is your treasure, you can hold everything else with open hands.

Fellowship also means we share time and presence. Acts 2:46 says they met together. They were intentional. They did not treat fellowship as optional. They devoted themselves to it. In our world, it is easy to treat relationships as convenient. But biblical fellowship requires commitment. Fellowship means I am not walking alone. It means I have people who know my story, who pray for me, who encourage me, who correct me, who carry me when I am weak. And I do the same for them. That is the church.

So the question is not simply, "Do we attend?" The question is, "Do we share life in Christ?" Do we know each other? Do we pray for each other? Do we bear burdens? Do we celebrate victories? Do we show up when it's hard? That is fellowship, life together because we are held together by Jesus.

3. BREAKING OF BREAD

Acts 2:42 continues: "They devoted themselves...to the breaking of bread." This phrase includes shared meals, but it also points to the Lord's Supper. The early church regularly gathered around the table, and the table kept Christ at the center. The breaking of bread is fellowship that remembers. It is fellowship that returns again and again to the foundation: Jesus gave His life for us.

John says in 1 John 1:2, "The life appeared." The life appeared in the incarnation, and that life was given at the cross. When the church breaks bread, it is proclaiming that our unity is not based on our goodness; it is based on Christ's sacrifice. We are one because Jesus was broken for us. We are forgiven because His blood was shed for us.

The table is a place of humility. You cannot come to the cross and remain proud. The cross shows us our sin and God's love at the same time. It shows us that we needed a Savior, and it shows us that God provided one. So when believers share the bread and the cup, they are declaring: "We are saved by grace." And grace is the atmosphere where fellowship thrives.

The breaking of bread is also a place of reconciliation. If Jesus forgave us at the cost of His own life, then we are called to forgive one another. The table reminds us that bitterness has no home in the body of Christ. The cross is where hostility dies. The table brings us back to that reality. And it also becomes a place of hope because we remember not only His death but His resurrection and His coming kingdom.

Even ordinary meals become sacred when Christ is at the center. In Acts, they ate together with glad and sincere hearts. Meals were not just food; they were belonging. They were hospitality. They were community. Around the table, relationships deepened. Stories were shared. Needs were discovered. Encouragement was given. This is why breaking bread is so central to fellowship, it slows us down and brings us back to Christ.

4. PRAYER

Finally, Acts 2:42 says, "They devoted themselves...to prayer." Prayer is fellowship with God that fuels fellowship with one another. Prayer is the church admitting, "Without Jesus, we can do nothing." Prayer is the church agreeing together that God is our source, our strength, our wisdom, and our help.

Prayer also keeps Christ central. When we pray, we are not just speaking words into the air; we are coming before the Father through the Son by the Spirit. Prayer is communion with God. And John's words in 1 John 1:3 remind us that our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. Prayer is how that fellowship is nurtured daily.

When a church prays, unity deepens. Why? Because prayer humbles us. It reminds us we are all needy. It reminds us we are not self-sufficient. It puts our hearts in the same direction toward God. Prayer also softens hearts. It breaks pride. It produces compassion. And it brings power. The early church was not powerful because they had perfect organization; they were powerful because they were dependent on God.

In prayer, the church learns to care. When we pray for one another, we stop being spectators and we become family. When we pray, we carry each other before the Lord.

And in prayer, we learn to listen. God shapes our desires, aligns our decisions, and guides our mission.

Finally, Acts 2:42 is not calling us to religious routine; it is calling us to Christ-centered devotion. Apostolic fellowship keeps us anchored in the truth of Jesus. Fellowship calls us to share life because we share Christ. The breaking of bread brings us back to His cross and grace. Prayer keeps us dependent on the Father through the Son. And 1 John 1:1–3 reminds us that all of this is possible because Jesus, the Word of life, was revealed, proclaimed, and offered to us so that we may have fellowship with God and with one another.

So here is the invitation today: Abide in Christ. Rest in His hands. Trust that He is one with the Father and that your life is secure in Him. And out of that security, devote yourself to the life of the church. Devote yourself to the Word. Devote yourself to fellowship. Devote yourself to the table. Devote yourself to prayer. Not as burdens, but as streams of grace flowing from Jesus.

May our church be known not merely for gatherings, but for Christ. Not merely for activity, but for abiding. Not merely for friendship, but for true fellowship, the fellowship that flows from Jesus Christ.

Amen.