

**This Is The Way
Community
Acts 2:42-47**

Introduction: Moving Beyond Parallel Play

Step 1: Give Up – Surrender my life and my will to the care of God

Step 2: Think Up – Have the constant flow of thoughts in my mind renewed by regularly engaging with Scripture

Step 3: Look Up – Ask God in prayer to give me the knowledge of His will and the power to carry it out in every moment

Step 4: Love In – Get into a community of people who I can love and they can love me.

Observation: Children at play

Definition: Fellowship (Koinonia) is the practice of engaging in common activities like worship, learning from the Bible, praying, sharing, confessing, and serving with other disciples of Jesus for the purpose of mutual growth in the community of faith and the blessing of other people outside of that community.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 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, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47 NIV)

Fellowship Requires Authenticity

"They ate together with glad and sincere hearts."

- Fellowship means we are willing to say to others, "Here's the truth about me."
- Fellowship is not about trying to look good

Definition of Sincere: Simplicity; singleness; Smooth; Without rocks

Fellowship Requires Commitment

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

- Commitment to the Lord and to one another

"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts."

- Commitment that didn't waver

Question: Do you think everyone in the early church always felt like meeting in the temple courts every day?

Fellowship Requires Sharing

"All the believers were together and had everything in common."

- Sharing expressed the core of their fellowship with one another
- Sharing happened because the rich and the poor met together on equal footing

Fellowship Requires Truth Telling

"Speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15).

The Challenge: When a difficult truth needs to be spoken, it's always easier to remain silent. Churches can become places where people suffer from terminal niceness.

The Reality: The early church had all kinds of conflicts.

Our Expectation: When we study the Word of God, it should make a difference in the way we live!

Our Approach: In small groups the specific question to be answered each week is, *"If Scripture is true, what needs to be different in my life right now?"*

Conclusion: Honesty In Prayer