

**THE MARKS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE:  
A LOVE FOR THE FAMILY  
Acts 2:43-47**

**I. Our fellowship should reflect Christ.**

- A. In these verses, Dr. Luke gives us insight into the life of the church in the days following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. *<sup>42</sup>They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.* *<sup>43</sup>Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.* The band of believers was committed to the apostles' teaching. They wanted to know Christ and their fellowship began to reflect what they understood of Christ. It is evident that they were submitting to the authority of the teaching because the Holy Spirit was at work in their midst. They were seeing signs and wonders take place through the apostles.
- B. As we join together in this enterprise, we ought to reflect the character of Christ.
1. We ought to be a loving fellowship.
  2. We ought to be a merciful fellowship.
  3. We ought to be a redemptive fellowship.
  4. We ought to be a righteous fellowship.

**II. Our fellowship should be inclusive.**

- A. Luke reminded us that the fellowship of the early church was inclusive. *<sup>44</sup>And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals*

*together with gladness and sincerity of heart, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people.*

1. They were open to those in need.
  2. They were inclusive in their worship (temple and homes).
  3. They were inclusive at mealtime.
- B. The more we take control of the fellowship, the more homogeneous we become. The more we submit to the Holy Spirit, the more heterogeneous we become.
1. We tend to be drawn to folks with whom we have something in common.
  2. There is nothing wrong with cliques as long as they are open. They become toxic when they are closed.
- C. Our church's fellowship should reflect the community where we serve.

### **III. Our fellowship should draw the lost to Christ.**

- A. Luke described a living organism. The church grew as it fellowshiped. *And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.* Those who were coming to faith in Christ were being added to the fellowship.
- B. The fellowship of the church should be like a beacon in the darkness of isolation and loneliness. The fellowship of the church should be like a lifeboat for the one drowning in guilt and shame. The fellowship of the church should so powerfully reflect the character of Christ that it draws the lost to him.
- C. Who do you know that needs the fellowship of the church? What can you do to build a bridge to that individual? What are some barriers that keep people from our fellowship? How can we tear down those barriers? Who are you praying for at this time?