

The First Church, Part 3:
“They Were Faithful to Fellowship”
Acts 2:37-42

I. The act of fellowshiping is something that can only be done by believers.

- A. Fellowship is based upon what we have in common.
- B. The commonality that believers share is Jesus Christ.

(1 Corinthians 10:20-21; 2 Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 5:11; Philippians 1:3-5)

II. We can fellowship together because we have first entered into fellowship with God.

- A. Fellowshiping is the purpose of God for His people.
- B. Fellowshiping helps create a bond.
- C. Fellowshiping shows that Christ breaks down barriers.
- D. Fellowshiping is a picture of a reality that will be realized in eternity.

(John 17:3, 21; Galatians 3:27-29; 1 John 1:3; 3:11-16; 4:19-20)

Scripture References and Notes

continued steadfastly [προσκαρτερέω (proskartereō)]

- I persist, persevere in, continue steadfast in; I wait upon.
- (from *prós*, "towards, interactively *with*" and *kartereō*, "show steadfast strength," derived from *krátos*, "prevailing strength")
- properly, to consistently showing strength which *prevails* (in spite of difficulties); to *endure* (remain firm), *staying* in a *fixed direction*.
- [*proskartereō* means "to continue to do something with intense effort, with the possible implication of despite difficulty – 'to devote oneself to, to keep on, to persist in'" (*L & N*, 1, 68.68).]

Philippians 1:3-5

³I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, ⁵for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,

Philippians 1:3-5 (NASB)

³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, ⁵ for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now...

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among *them*. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." ¹⁷ Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." ¹⁸ "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

1 Corinthians 10:20-21

²⁰ Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.

Ephesians 5:11

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*.

1 John 1:3

...that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

John 17:3

And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

1 Corinthians 1:9

God *is* faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 17:21

that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

1 John 3:11-16

¹¹ For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, ¹² not as Cain *who* was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³ Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love *his* brother abides in death. ¹⁵ Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. ¹⁶ By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

1 John 4:19-20

¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us. ²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

Galatians 3:27-29

²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

*Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are from the New King James Version.