

Developing Spiritual Disciplines, Pt. IV

The Discipline of Fellowship

³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Jn 13:34–35 (ESV)

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Ac 2:42–47 (ESV)

From the Introduction:

- When you the word “fellowship” as it relates to the world, what comes to mind?
- When you think about fellowship as it relates to the church, what images does it conjure in your mind?

1) The fellowship of seeking (Acts 2:42)

a) Through the fellowship of seeking, we experience God's truth as we _____ and _____ together.

b) We develop Spiritual Discipline through our devotion to _____ God's truth, together.

2) The fellowship of sharing (Acts 2:46)

a) Through the fellowship of sharing, we experience God's presence as we _____ together.

b) We develop Spiritual Discipline through our devotion to spiritually _____ God's family, together.

3) The fellowship of serving (Acts 2:47)

a) Through the fellowship of serving, we experience God's love as we _____ together.

b) We develop Spiritual Discipline through our devotion to _____ God's Plan, together.

Remember:

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Cor. 1:9 ESV)

Reflect:

“Our love to God is measured by our everyday fellowship with others and the love it displays.” – Andrew Murray

Seek:

1. How do you feel when you find yourself surrounded by people you don't know? What excuses might you use to avoid such an encounter?

2. God created us to have fellowship with Him. Likewise, He created us to have fellowship with others. How does your love for God manifest itself in your love for others?

Share:

1. Read Acts 2:42-47
 - a. Pastor Mark notes, “We develop Spiritual Discipline through our daily devotion to spiritually build God’s family together.” How might you interpret your role in spiritually building God’s family be influenced by what Luke shows us in Acts 2?
 - b. What actions and/or attitudes are currently active in your life that keep you from devoting yourself to this task on a daily basis?

2. Read John 13:34-35

- a. In Jesus' command to "love one another" He uses the example of his own love for us as our motivation to do the same. What does this command show you about the options you have to love, or not to love, those inside and outside the church?

- b. How does it make you feel to know that the love you express is your example to the rest of the world of who you are in Jesus Christ? Is this an overwhelming burden, or a blessed honor?

Serve:

1. Fellowship is more than breaking bread together. It is a reflection of our relationship with God. How does your relationship with others look when set next to your relationship with God? What do you see? What do you think He sees?

2. What changed need to take place in your life in order to develop the spiritual discipline of Christian fellowship?

Pray:

1. Pray together, using sentence prayers, asking the Lord to develop the spiritual discipline of fellowship. Ask also that He would continue to develop all the disciplines in your life.