

The Fellowship

“Sharing is caring! We heard this all the time when we were children, but as we grow up, we begin to desire to have our own stuff and things, or even ideas. The early church was together (physically, spiritually, and covenantally) and had all things in common. In our world, churches are often looked at as a business, as a consumable entity, where if we don’t like one flavor, we can just head on down to the next one down the street. Consumerism and privatized lives have divided the church to where we don’t really even know what it means to live as a unified church, a church where we have all things in common. This week we look at how the early church’s devotion and the Spirit’s movement created a context for unity to thrive and we seek how we can embrace this type of unity as well in our modern-day church.”

INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY:

Do this activity to disseminate between Needs and Wants:

<https://www.ecoliteracy.org/sites/default/files/CEL-Needs-Wants-Activity.pdf>

MEMORY VERSE:

Acts 2:42-47

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



SCRIPTURE READING:

Acts 2:44-45

“And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.”

1 Corinthians 12:27

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

Philippians 2:3-4

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

Luke 12:33-34

“Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When you read the words “they had all things in common” what comes to your mind? What do you feel?
2. When the verse says “they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need,” what does your brain start thinking about? How do you feel?
3. On a piece of paper, draw out a T-chart. On one side write Give. Underneath this section write all the ways you contribute to the body of Christ through your local church. On the other side write Receive. Underneath this section write all the ways you receive from the body of Christ through your local church.
4. What role do you think you play in the Body of Christ? Share that with your group.

CLOSING PRAYER ACTIVITY:

Invite someone to close the group in prayer.