

A Shared Life

Acts 2:42-47

PART THREE

Introduction

The danger in living submersed in a lone, isolated, soulless, online counterfeit reality.

God who said, "It is not good that man should be alone" (Genesis 2:18) created man to live in *community*.

It is *thought* in the mind that comes first, then action — creation born into the physical world.

"the common theme of these killings is the social alienation of young men..."

"the rant of someone angry about a society he doesn't feel a part of and doesn't comprehend...."

"tend to be loners and marinate in notions they absorb in the hours they spend online. They are usually disconnected to family, neighborhood, church, colleagues at work, or anything apart from their online universe.... Many of these shooters seem to draw inspiration from one another, and then they call for action." (Wall Street Journal; "The Killers In Our Midst")

12 Crucial Components of a True NT Church

- 1) Genuine conversion among members based upon the proclamation of biblical truth (v37-38)
- 2) Faithful proclamation and teaching the whole content of Scripture (v42a).
- 3) Perseverance in hearing, understanding, accepting, and living by the Word of God (v42a).

4) Living and participating in a shared life in Christian community (v42b).

"they devoted themselves to...the fellowship"

"fellowship" Gk koinonia; 'to share in something; a partnership, participation.'

Christian Community

Community: "A group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common"; "sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals."

1 John 1:3-4

Christianity is not an individual life experience. It is a *shared life* together with fellow believers.

5) Practicing the two ordinances given to the Church: **Baptism & Communion** (vv38, 42c).

"repent and be baptized...for the forgiveness of your sins" (v38).

"and they devoted themselves to...the breaking of bread" (v42c).

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

The Lord's Supper is a time to get together and celebrate what Christ has done for us!

Sin assaults our fellowship with God and with each other by separation.

The Lord's Table humbles us as we reflect on the cost of reconciliation and what it took to unite us.

6) Commitment to, and consistency in corporate and individual prayer (v42c).

“and they devoted themselves...to the prayers.”

Ephesians 6:18

Colossians 4:2

1 Samuel 12:23

“So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church” Acts 12:5.

“In return for my love they accuse me, but I give myself to prayer” Psalm 109:4.

“be constant in prayer” Romans 12:12.

“pray without ceasing” 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

Jesus “told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart” Luke 18:1

Philippians 4:6

James 5:16

Oh, the powerful things we'd see if we would all get together and pray!