

Study Notes : Acts 2:42-47 The Fellowship of Believers

Act 2:42-47 NIV They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (43) Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. (44) All the believers were together and had everything in common. (45) They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. (46) Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, (47) praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

1. What images does the word 'fellowship' conjure up for you?
2. The Acts 2 church devoted themselves to 4 things v42. How does our church life compare? If a visitor from Mars came to one of our services what could he legitimately conclude we were devoted to?
3. Graeme introduced the concept of 'in' church and 'out' church. He identified a tension (dichotomy?!) between family life and family business. From this passage what do you identify as 'in' and what is 'out'? Does this raise any implications for us?
4. 'when the 'in' church disciplines are exercised in a devoted manner, 'out' stuff happens in a dramatic manner'. How do you respond?
5. Graeme commented that in our individualistic society it is difficult sometimes to see the family stuff. How can we model attractive community before an individualistic society?
6. 'Christian generosity made the Roman Empire look bad'. In what areas is Christian generosity apparent in our society? Graeme suggested that our focus should be on sacrifice rather than surplus. How may this work out in practice?
7. What do we make of verses 44-45?
8. Graeme told the 'success story' of a church which was welcoming and open to change when a significant number of Iranians turned up. How would we react? A business book has the title 'Sacred cows make the best burgers'. What sacred cows may we need to barbecue in order for us to be welcoming and inclusive?
9. How important is it that we 'enjoy the favour of all the people' v47? What may be the sticking points?