**Marks of A Healthy Church, Part 2**

**Acts 2:41-47**

*A healthy Church is marked by a deep commitment to the Lord,*

 *to His people and to His work in the world.*

 We sometimes call connections between Christians and non-Christians “friendship”, but refer to the connections between two Christians as “fellowship”. Is it automatic that Christians enjoy fellowship when they are together? Perhaps it’s time to stop and think if what you and other Christians do when you are together fits the Biblical description of fellowship.

Today we arrive at another mark of a healthy Church is that it unselfishly shares. This can be seen in their devotion to the fellowship. The first Christians were devoted to each other in that they did life together. Selling possessions, providing for needs, worshiping, gathering, learning and witnessing. **Being devoted to the fellowship is a commitment to *grow* as a Christian *with* other Christians.**

To give you an idea of the meaning of the word fellowship and its depth of meaning, it is sometimes brought across from the original language into our English Bibles as *partnership* or *sharing*.

Words like partnership and sharing help us to see that Christian fellowship is *nothing less* than friendship but certainly it’s something *much* *more profound* than friendship. Fellowship is partnership, sharing, doing life together. The New Testament concept of fellowship is deep, personal and sacrificial.

The “one another” statements help to clarify what it is that God has called us to do as we relate to each other. You can’t do any of these alone. You need another person in order to engage in “one another” activity and you need relationships that are deep, personal and sacrificial.

There are 47 “one another” commands in the New Testament. Most of those are contained in the letters to the Churches. Here are some examples:

Don’t complain against one another, James 4:11, 5:9

Be of the same mind with one another, Rom 12:6, 15:5

Bear with and forgive one another, Col 3:13

Be devoted to one another in love, Rom 12:10

Through love, serve one another, Gal 5:13

Love one another, John 13:34

Serve one another, Gal 5:13

Submit to one another, Eph 5:21

Clothe yourselves in humility toward one another, 1 Peter 5:5

Don’t lie to one another, Col 3:9

Speak the truth in love to one another, Eph 4:25

Bear one another’s burdens, Gal 6:2

You don’t have to join a Church in order to be saved. But when you are saved, God joins you to the Church. You have brothers and sisters in Christ. You have been joined to a fellowship.

**Home Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Follow up on last week’s topic of being devoted to the Apostles’ teaching. How are you doing at connecting with God’s Word? How can your Home Group help?

2. How did this message change or challenge or affirm your ideas of Christian fellowship?

3. Here’s a question that you may have heard from Pastor Karl at the end of the message: When it comes to fellowship, are you a giver or a consumer … or both? What are your thoughts on that?

4. What can you do to deepen your fellowship with other Christians? What *will* you do?

5. When do you find it particularly challenging to engage in fellowship with Christians? When do you find it comfortable or easy?

6. How has God used other people to deepen your personal or spiritual maturity?