

Sermon Discussion Guide:

The Fellowship of the Saints

Sunday, March 6, 2022

Scripture: **Acts 2:42–47**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

OVERVIEW

What is your view of a healthy church? What needs do you want the church to fill? Is the church genuinely caring for you, loving you, and helping you grow? Is the church centered on Christ? J.C. Ryle stated that, “Before Christ comes, it is useless to see a perfect church.” If this is so, what should we be looking for in our fellowship with the saints? **An unhealthy view of the local church leads to an unhealthy believer in the local church.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Jude 1:3; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the substance of the church found in verse 42? Elaborate on the four points the believers devoted themselves to. (apostles teaching [the scriptures], fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers)
2. What does it mean to be devoted? What does this look like in a healthy church for the saints? What does this look like from an unbeliever’s point of view?
3. Consider for a moment the dangers of not belonging to a local healthy church. It may be due to being hurt by an unhealthy church or isolation of one’s self with the mentality of, “I have Jesus and my bible—what more do I need?”. What can you do to be a catalyst for the church to be a church of substance, helping saints and sinners?
4. The Spirit of the church (vv 43-47a)—“and fear came upon every soul.” We do see the Holy Spirit at work; guiding, protecting, healing, providing, caring, comforting and much more. Can you share some ways in which the Holy Spirit has cared for you? Why is the most important work of the Holy Spirit salvation and sanctification?
5. Do you experience the sweetness of the local church? What are some examples? How does this affect the unbeliever looking at us? [*Are we a beacon of light in a dark world, hospital for sick, blessing the community, lover of justice, proclaimers of God's truth?*]
6. Since the sermon and our discussion this far, what is your devotion to God as His child?
7. Do you feel you are devoted to the people of the local church?