

Growth Group Study on 26 May 2019
Theme : The importance of unity and fellowship (I)
Bible: Acts 2:42-47
Preached by Rev. Dr. Je Cheol Cook

Before the bible study, pray to God for his guidance.

During this study, we will share with each other ideas on how we can unite with each other in Christ.

And talk to one another what you learned from the story below.

Some of our church members might have seen or heard about the trees in the Red Wood National and State Park in California, USA. There are huge, and one of the tallest trees in the park. Some trees have big tunnels, through which two cars are able to pass. Twenty adults could surround a tree with hand-in-hands. After many scholars had researched how those trees could have survived for so long a time, they discovered that the roots of the group of trees were connected and were dependent on each other. This could be the reason that they have survived in spite of heavy winds and wildfires. In addition, the researchers also found that the trees, which were not connected with the group, died. This unity among the trees could be applied to our church. To survive in this world, our church members must unite in Christ.

(Bible study based on the bible)

Read **Acts 2:42**, ***“they(the believers) devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”***

Consider the original meaning of teaching below. How does this differ from what you believe teaching is?

When believers of God met, first word come teaching. This word is didachē(διδάχη) in Greek. Didache means more than just teaching. It also means to act with this knowledge to serve God and his people

Consider the original meaning of fellowship below. How does this differ from what you believe fellowship is?

Second, they worked in fellowship. This word is koinonia(κοινωνία) in Greek and originally means sharing with others. The early believers were instructed to share their personal things, their belongings with others. Also, they were taught to share their beliefs, their spiritual gifts, with others by teaching, preaching, healing, serving, worshipping and so on.

How could we change what we do in our church to cover the original meanings of teaching and fellowship?

The preacher also says, “God’s *Koinonia*(*fellowship*) also includes bible study, prayer, and having meals together. Meals include physical and spiritual foods.”

How can we extend these into the life of our church?

How would these fellowship help our church members to grow their faith in God?

Read. **Acts 2:43, “everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.”**

What were wonders and miracles?

Has anyone seen one of God’s miracles in their lives?

Read Acts 2:47 and consider back to the sermon-what is the greatest miracle?

Read. **verse 44-45, “all the believers were together and had everything in common, selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.”**

Why did the early believers get together and sell their possessions and goods?

If you wish, share how you can apply this into your life as a believer of Christ?

The preacher mentioned two movements. Read the passage below and discuss what you learned and how could apply this learning to our church.

Similar this, I remember a similar movement in Korea called 'Ah(아껴쓰고) - Na(나눠쓰고)-Ba(바꿔쓰고) - da(다시쓰자); in which Ah means Save, Na means Share, Ba means Swap(or Exchange), and Da means use again. In English there is also a similar phrase, 3RS(Recycle,

Reuse, Reduce). For instance, if you don't use any books or belongings, you could exchange them with others', so that they can be shared and used again.

And there is another kinds of sharing which in Korea we call , "Talent(or gift) Market.' We all have different kinds of spiritual gifts(or talents) such as teaching, singing music, which we can use to glorify God. In God's market, it is like selling your gifts and receiving others' gifts through our church.

Read. **Verse 46-47 says, "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, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people."**

Why did the early believers continued to meet as a group and worship God?

Read the following and share with others.

Here is a good illustration of why it is necessary to come and worship God with others at church. There was a minister in a church and one day a man told the minister that he didn't need to attend the church service, because he could worship God by himself. On a cold night, the minister came to his house and demonstrated the necessity of sharing in worship. In front of the fire place, he took some wood out of the fire. The wood stopped burning within a few minutes. However, the other wood in the fireplace was still burning well. The man understood this lesson and said, "Reverend, I can see that I was not able to serve God on my own and will return to the church and the fellowship again."

What was the significance of the story?

Read **verse 47, "And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."**

The early believers continued to meet together through bible studies, prayers, doing fellowship. Then God blessed them.

Talk with others how we could help our church to grow?

Finish by prayers.