

Serving the Spiritual Body

Building Relationships

Points to Consider

1. We Build Relationships by Studying Together.
2. We Build Relationships by Eating Together.
3. We Build Relationships by Being United.

We Build Relationships by Studying Together

Acts 2:42-47 *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.* NKJV

The first century Christians continued in the apostles' doctrine. They _____ together. They continued daily in the temple. They discussed spiritual things on a _____ basis.

The Apostles' Doctrine

Acts 3:26 *To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."* NKJV

We need to serve one another by helping one another turn away from our _____.

Acts 4:1-4 *Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, 2 being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. 4 However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.* NKJV

The apostles' doctrine included teaching that Jesus was _____ from the dead. We need to serve one another by reflecting together on the Lord's resurrection and what that means to us.

Acts 4:33 *And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.* NKJV

Acts 5:40-42 *And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. 42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.* NKJV

The apostles taught daily in the temple and in houses that Jesus is the _____.

Acts 17:10-11 *Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. NKJV*

We Build Relationships by Eating Together

Acts 2:42 *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

The first Christians continued having _____ with one another.

Acts 2:46-47 *So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. NKJV*

The first century Christians _____ together with gladness and simplicity of heart.

Acts 11:1-3 *Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. 2 And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him, 3 saying, "You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!" NKJV*

When the Jews heard that Peter ate with the Gentiles they were _____.
Eating with someone shows _____ and acceptance.

Matt 9:9-13 *As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him. 10 Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 12 When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." NKJV*

The Pharisees _____ Jesus for eating with tax collectors and sinners. In their culture, "breaking bread" with someone was reserved for fellow Jews.
Jesus built relationships with sinners by eating with them.

1 Cor 5:9-11 *I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. 10 Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. 11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner — not even to eat with such a person. NKJV*

When a Christian is living in sin, _____ to repent, we are not even to eat with that person.

The intimacy of sharing a meal together goes way back.

Gen 18:6-8 *So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and make cakes." 7 And Abraham ran to the herd, took a tender and good calf, gave it to a young man, and he hastened to prepare it. 8 So he took butter and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree as they ate. NKJV*

When you share a meal with someone you are giving them one of the _____ of life.

When the two angels went to Lot's house, he made them a feast, baked unleavened bread, and they ate together.

When Abraham's servant went to find a wife for Isaac, Rebekah's family offered him a meal.

Isaac asked Esau to make him some _____ food that he loved, so he could bless his oldest son.

Jacob shared a meal with Laban as they were parting ways.

David sat at Saul's table.

The Passover and the Lord's Supper are also very important.

There is _____ in eating at someone's house!

We Build Relationships by Being United

Acts 2:46 *So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

Being of one accord means they had one _____. They were in agreement.

They were first and foremost in agreement that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God.

They were in agreement that God was worthy of _____.

They were all added to the one church.

Acts 4:24-25 *So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them. NKJV*

They were in agreement and praised God together.

Thinking the same thing causes us to _____ the same things.

Eph 4:1-17 *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. 7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." 9 (Now this, "He ascended" — what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure*

of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ — 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. NKJV

Unity requires humility, patience, and _____.

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