

Welcome To Open Bible Hour

Thank you for joining us on this Lord's Day!

Our desire is that you may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ as we pursue an in-depth study of the first 2 chapters of Acts.

If you have a prayer request, for which you would like us to pray, please fill out a prayer sheet at the back table and give to Lyle.

Our website: OpenBibleHour.net



“THE 4 PILLARS OF CHURCH LIFE”

PART 4

“Fellowship”

“Breaking of Bread”

January 22, 2012

Acts 2:41-42

41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

The Believer's Position in Christ

The believer is:

1. Elect/Chosen (Eph. 1:4)
2. Foreknown (I Pet. 1:2)
3. Predestined (Rom. 8:29,30)
4. Called (I Thes. 5:24)
5. Redeemed (Rom. 3:24)
6. Reconciled (Rom. 5:10)
7. Related to God through propitiation (Rom. 3:24-26)
8. Forgiven all sin (1 Jn. 2:12; Eph. 1:7)
9. Joined to Christ (Rom. 6:1-10)
10. Free from the Law (Rom. 7:2-6)
11. Made a child of God (Gal. 3:26)
12. Adopted (Rom. 8:15, 23)
13. Made acceptable to God through Christ
(Eph. 1:6; Col. 1:12)
14. Made righteous (Rom. 3:22)

15. Sanctified (1 Cor. 1:30; 6:11)
16. Perfected forever (Heb 10:14)
17. Justified (Rom. 5:1)
18. Made close to God (Eph. 2:13)
19. Delivered from the power of darkness (Col.1:13)
20. Translated into the Kingdom (Col. 1:13)
21. Planted on the Rock, Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:9-15)
22. A gift from God to Jesus Christ (Jn. 17:6,11,12,20)
23. Circumcised in Christ (Col. 2:11)
24. A Priest in the Holy and Royal Priesthood of believers (1 Pet. 2:5,9)
25. Part of a chosen generation, a holy nation, and a peculiar people (1 Pet. 5:9)
26. A heavenly citizen (Phil. 3:20)
27. In the family & household of God (Eph. 2:19)
28. In the fellowship of the saints (Jn. 17:11,21-23)
29. In a heavenly association (Col. 1:27; 3:1)

30. Given access to God (Eph. 2:18)
31. Within the care of God (Rom. 5:8-10)
32. An object of God's love (Jn. 3:16)
33. An object of God's Grace (Eph. 2:7-9)
34. An object of God's power (Eph. 1:19)
35. An object of God's faithfulness (Phil. 1:6)
36. An object of God's peace (Rom. 5:1)
37. An object of God's consolation (2 Thes. 2:16,17)
38. An object of God's intercession (Rom. 8:26)
39. God's inheritance (Eph. 1:18)
40. Given the inheritance of God Himself (1 Pet. 1:4)
41. Given light in the Lord (2 Cor. 4:6)
42. United to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in fellowship
(1 Jn 1:3 1 Thes. 1:1)
43. Blessed with the earnest or first-fruits of the Spirit (Eph. 1:14)
44. Born of the Spirit (Jn. 3:6)
45. Baptized in the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13)
46. Indwelt by the Spirit (Rom. 8:9)
47. Sealed by the Spirit. (2 Cor. 1:22)
48. Complete in God (Col. 2:9,10)
49. Blessed with every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3)
50. Glorified (Rom. 8:18)

1 Cor 1:9

9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 John 1:3

3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

Fellowship:

Is a noun before it is a verb.

Is being before it is doing.

Is a root before it is a fruit.

Is a relationship before it is a participation.

Is a place before it is an experience.

Is a position before it is a practice.

Levels of Fellowship

1. Surface Fellowship (living life)
2. Substantive Fellowship (spiritual perspective)
3. In-Depth Fellowship (deepest-level)

What Determines the Depth of Your Fellowship?

1. The Word → Spiritual Maturity.
2. Willingness.
3. Trust.
4. Genuine Love.
5. Time

Application:

1. Being a member of the body of Christ means you are not **independent**, but **interdependent**.
2. Your daily pursuit of communion with God directly affects your practical fellowship with other believers.
3. When believers fail to get along as they should, when problems go unresolved and tensions mount, when they are not increasingly sensitive to each other's needs, more often than not it is an indication that something is not right with their relationship with God.
4. Intimate fellowship with God **enables** you to pursue the practice of intimate fellowship with other believers.
5. Fellowship is one of the great blessings of the Christian life!

“Breaking of Bread”

Communion

Definition:

The remembrance of the death of Jesus Christ by the sharing of the cup and the bread by a group of believers in a local church.

5 views of Communion:

- 1. Roman Catholic View** - “Transubstantiation” is the belief that the bread and wine are miraculously changed into the actual body and blood of Christ. This belief holds that although the bread and wine keep their physical characteristics (they taste, feel, and look the same), God supernaturally changes them into Christ's actual body and blood when they are blessed by the Priest during the ceremony of the Mass.
- 2. Orthodox (Greek or Eastern) View** - Same as RC only they call it a “mystery”.
- 3. Lutheran View** - “Consubstantiation” Christ's body and blood are present “*in, with and under*” the forms of bread and wine.

4. Reformed/Presbyterian View - Christ is not present literally in the elements, but he is spiritually present.

5. Memorial View- The death of Christ is remembered by the bread and the wine which symbolizes His body and blood. The Passover meal in the O.T. remembered God's physical deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage. The Lord's Supper commemorates Jesus' spiritual deliverance of believers from the bondage and penalty of sin. Like the Passover, the Lord's Supper is a time of communal fellowship, remembrance, and personal reflection. We also believe that the bread and wine are symbols of Christ's body and blood. We do not believe that they turn into his actual body and blood or that he is present within the bread or wine. Nor do we believe that spiritual grace is "transferred" by eating the bread or drinking the wine. The bread symbolizes Christ's body that was sacrificed for us, as he became the perfect sacrificial Lamb. The cup symbolizes his blood that was shed for my sin. Together, the bread and cup signify his complete life - which he freely gave up for us.

Luke 22:19-20

19 And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in **remembrance** of Me."

20 And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

1 Cor 11:23-26

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;

24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in **remembrance** of Me."

25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in **remembrance** of Me."

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

John 6:52-56

52 Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?"

53 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves.

54 "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

55 "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.

56 "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.