

"Involvement & Fellowship -- The Marks of a Strong Church"

Acts 2:42 (NLT) All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

Christian have at least 4 areas of involvement to maintain.

🏠 **OUR INVOLVEMENT WITH GOD.**

🏠 **OUR INVOLVEMENT WITH MEMBERS OF OUR FAMILY.**

🏠 **OUR INVOLVEMENT WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS.**

🏠 **OUR INVOLVEMENT WITH NON-CHRISTIANS.**

I. Being Involved with Other Christians

*Acts 2:43-45 (NKJV) Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now **all** who believed were together, and had **all** things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among **all**, as anyone had need.*

Their mutual involvement had 4 characteristics:

- It was entered into by **EVERYONE**.
- It helped hold them **TOGETHER** in times of great need.
- It was **GENUINE**, spontaneous, never **FORCED**.
- It added to their sense of **UNITY** and **HARMONY**.

Acts 4:32 & Acts 4: 34-35

II. Why Get Involved?

Two reasons why we should break away from the isolationism of this age:

#1. God **COMMANDS** It

Romans 12:9-16

#2. The Body **NEEDS** It

1 Corinthians 12:20-27 (MSG) What we have is one body with many parts, each its proper size and in its proper place. No part is important on its own. Can you imagine Eye telling Hand, "Get lost; I don't need you"? Or, Head telling Foot, "You're fired; your job has been phased out"?²² . . .²⁵ The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance. You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything.

III. What Does Involvement Include?

S PONTANEITY .

1 Cor 12:25 (NKJV) that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.

V ULNERABILITY .

1 Corinthians 12:26 (MSG) If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.

A CCOUNTABILITY .

1 Corinthians 12:27 (MSG) You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything.

WE NEED EACH OTHER.

Involvement is not simply and enjoyable luxury for those who have time on their hands ... it's essential to survival.