

The 4th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, June 21, 2026

“Marks of the Early Church ~ United in Fellowship”

Psalm 133 Acts 4:32-37 John 13:31-35

After Jesus rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and poured out the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the lives of His followers were _____.

The book of Acts gives us a picture of a church that wasn't just surviving, but _____—a church that turned the world upside down because Christ had first changed them from the _____.

The fellowship described in Acts 4 goes much _____ than just social interaction.

Biblical unity is very different—it doesn't mean _____ because God has never called His people to be _____.

Unity in the church means being bound together by a common _____ in Jesus Christ, a shared commitment to His truth, and a common love for one another. It's not the absence of differences, but the presence of something _____ than those differences.

This message is especially important today because we live in a culture that's increasingly _____.

Sadly, we live in a time when many people seem quicker to _____ one another than to _____ to one another.

_____ has also become one of the great epidemics of our age. We're more connected technologically than any generation in history, yet many people have never felt more _____. We have thousands of online connections, but often very few _____ relationships.

The early church became a powerful witness to Christ not simply because of what they believed, but because of how they _____ one another. In a divided world, they displayed _____. In a selfish world, they displayed _____. In a lonely world, they became a _____.

Luke shows us that Christian fellowship is far more than friendship; it's a _____ work of God's grace—the visible evidence that Christ is alive and at work among His people.

3 TRUTHS ABOUT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Truth #1: _____.
“Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul.” (Acts 4:32)

Luke isn't saying that every believer thought exactly alike on every issue, nor is he suggesting that there were never _____ among them. What he's describing is something _____ than agreement: a _____ unity created by the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus. They were united because they'd all come to _____ the same Saviour, received the same forgiveness, experienced the same grace, and been filled with the same Holy Spirit.

“There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.” (Ephesians 4:4-6)

“That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you.” (John 17:21)

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you.” (John 13:34)

True unity comes when believers move _____ to Christ. As we draw nearer to Him, we inevitably draw nearer to one another. And the closer we are to Jesus, the _____ it is to hold on to bitterness, pride, resentment, and division.

These attitudes can sometimes find their way into the _____, as we allow political opinions, personal preferences, generational differences, or secondary theological issues to become more _____ than the unity we share in Christ.

“Be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:3)

The Holy Spirit has already created unity through Christ—our responsibility is to protect it, _____ it, and preserve it.

The early church was “...of one heart and soul” because Christ stood at the _____ of their life together.

Truth #2: _____.
“...and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common...There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold.” (Acts 4:32, 34)

The believers viewed their possessions differently because the gospel had changed their _____; they understood that everything they possessed ultimately belonged to _____.

The gospel had loosened the grip of _____ on their hearts, replacing it with a spirit of _____ and stewardship, because when Jesus becomes our _____, possessions lose their power to control us.

“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it...”
(Psalm 24:1)

Everything belongs to God. We aren’t owners, but _____.

The money in our bank accounts, the homes we live in, the time we possess, the gifts we’ve received—have been _____ to us by God for His purposes. Understanding that _____ transforms how we _____ to one another.

The early church didn’t see itself as a collection of religious consumers who happened to attend the same meetings. They saw themselves as a _____, a body, and a community joined together by Christ Himself—that’s why they cared so deeply about one another’s needs.

“...great grace was upon them all.” (Acts 4:33)

Their generosity wasn’t the result of _____, nor was it produced by pressure or the result of a stewardship campaign. It was the fruit of _____. They’d received so much from Christ that they wanted to _____ it with others.

“Though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.” (2 Corinthians 8:9)

Jesus left the glory of heaven, took on human flesh, bore our sins upon the cross, and gave His life so that we might receive forgiveness and eternal life. Every act of Christian generosity ultimately flows from His _____ toward us. And the more deeply we understand the _____, the more generous we become.

Barnabas becomes a living _____ of everything Luke’s been describing. Throughout the Book of Acts, he repeatedly puts the needs of others ahead of his own. His generosity with his possessions reflected a deeper generosity of _____. And that kind of generosity always _____ Christian fellowship.

And generosity isn’t measured simply by the size of a gift, it’s measured by the willingness of a _____.

One of the great challenges facing the church today is that our culture often encourages us to think primarily about _____; to protect our own interests, pursue our own goals, and focus on our own happiness.

“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:4)

They _____ needs. They _____ about those needs. And they _____ to those needs.

Truth #3: _____.

“And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.” (Acts 4:33)

For the early church, fellowship and witness were never _____ things. The apostles proclaimed the resurrection with their lips, while the congregation demonstrated the power of the resurrection with their _____. In other words, the message and the witness belonged together.

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)

Jesus is teaching that love gives _____ to witness.

The church’s love didn’t replace its preaching; it _____ it. People could see that something _____ was happening.

When a visitor walks into a congregation and sees people of different ages, backgrounds, and experiences genuinely loving one another, something powerful happens: they catch a glimpse of the _____.

When the world sees a congregation united in Christ, caring for one another generously, and extending grace freely, it becomes a _____ to the transforming power of the risen Lord.

The early church’s witness was powerful not only because the apostles preached with conviction, but because the congregation lived in a way that _____ the truth of that message.



The early church was more than a gathering of individuals who happened to believe the same things. It was a new community created by the _____ of God and united by the _____ of Christ.