

***“All Things in Common:  
Living our Lives Together  
in Christ”***

***Acts 2:42-47***

January 3, 2010

# Four Aims for This Sermon:

1. To explain why we're bringing a topical series of sermons but also why we think this manner of preaching should never be normative.
2. To explain the elders' motives in bringing this series of sermons.
3. To define *koinonia* thoroughly and concisely.
4. To elevate the importance of *koinonia* in your thinking.

# Two Approaches to Preaching

## *Ideological Preaching or Expository Preaching*

- Ideological Preaching: the preacher begins with his own ideas and uses the Scripture to support them.
- Expository Preaching: the preacher begins with the wisdom of God in the Bible and allows his sermons to emerge from there.
  - Topical Sermons
  - Preach through books
  - Our conviction is that it's best to preach through books but that topical sermons are permissible from time to time.

# **Why it's Best to Preach Through Books:**

1. Preaching straight through books of the Bible best honors the God-given order and logic of the Bible.
2. Preaching straight through books of the Bible causes the preacher to address a host of issues that he would never address if he was simply preaching on one topic after another.

# The Elders' Motives

*We have engaged in numerous hours of discussion and prayer on this subject, we've meditated on many texts together, and we've wanted for some time to invite the whole church into this discussion.*

# The Outline of This Series:

## 1. Theological Issues:

- Trinity
- Creation-Sin-Redemption

## 2. Biblical Metaphors for the Church:

- Household or family of God, body of Christ, the temple of the Holy Spirit, the bride of Christ.

## 3. Practical Issues:

- Worship, prayer, communion, unity, holiness, spiritual gifts, suffering, congregational care, evangelism & missions, marriage & parenting, etc.

# Defining *Koinonia*

- The word *koinonia* is a Greek word that's built off the word *koinos*.
- *Koinos* means “common” and is used in 2 ways:
  - “Common” as opposed to “holy” (Acts 10:14).
  - “Common” as in “mutual or communal” (Acts 4:32).
- *Koinonia* is built off this second use and thus means “a commonness of life or partnership or participation or communion or fellowship.”

# Defining *Koinonia*

- Since Christians are connected primarily by virtue of our relationship to Christ, we can say that *koinonia* in the church is a commonness of life in Christ.
- Love is at the heart of *koinonia*: God sent Christ in love, saved us in love, commands us to love him and one another.
- Thus, *koinonia* is the love of the Father flowing through his people to his people and back to him in a never-ending cycle.

## Acts 2:42-47

*“<sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship [koinonia], to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common [koinos].*

## **Acts 2:42-47**

*<sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”*

# Two Thoughts on this Text:

- The word “devote” in verse 42 is a very strong word.
  - It’s built off a word that means “strong”
  - It’s intensified to mean “enduring strength or perseverance or persistence or dedication or devotion.”
- Of the hundreds of things that could have been said about the life of the first church, only a handful are actually mentioned and *koinonia* is the second of them