

### **ekklesia: keeping it simple (Acts 2:42)**

Welcome to the *ekklesia* fellowship!

Why *ekklesia*?

“ek” means to come out

“klesia” means to gather or congregate

*ekklesia* thus means – the gathering of those who have been called out.

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The Christians you meet in the book of Acts were not content to meet once a week for services as usual!

- They met daily: Acts 2:46
- They cared daily: 6:1
- They made converts daily: 2:47
- They searched the scriptures daily: 17:11
- They increased in number daily: 16:5

### **ekklesia: keeping it simple (Acts 2:42)**

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

**Acts 2:42**

Two corporate disciplines are crucial for our growth in the faith:

1. The Apostles teaching – the written Word of God – correct doctrine.
  - The teaching in this fellowship will seek to be original, in the sense that we don't have our own doctrine, but that of the Apostles.

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“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.” (*Hebrews 5:12-14*)

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- We are going to take the written Word of God very seriously in this fellowship.
- We are going to encourage and desire a truculent tenacity for its transforming truth within our minds.
- Without an anchor, we will drift!  
Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:9-11;  
2 Timothy 3:16; Acts 17:11;  
2 Timothy 2:15

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Our minds must be held in check or they will continue to wander down destructive paths and destructive patterns.

- Sew a thought, reap an action
- Sew a action, reap a habit
- Sew a habit, reap a destiny

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We are in the midst of a battle for life and death,  
under constant and relentless attacks!

Our minds must be renewed and tempered against  
the constant onslaught of deception offered by  
the world's system.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be  
transformed by the renewing of your mind, that  
you may prove what the will of God is, that  
which is good and acceptable and perfect.  
(Romans 12:2)

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And stop assuming an outward expression  
that does not come from within you and  
is not representative of what you are in  
your inner being, but is patterned after  
this age; but change your outward  
expression to one that comes from within  
and is representative of your inner being,  
by the renewing of your mind, resulting in  
your putting to the test what is the will of  
God..." (Kenneth S. Wuest)

**ekklesia: keeping it simple (Acts 2:42)**

Living on a lighted stage  
Approaches the unreal  
For those who think and feel  
In touch with some reality  
Beyond the gilded cage

Cast in this unlikely role,  
Ill-equipped to act  
With insufficient tact  
One must put up barriers  
To keep oneself intact

All the world's indeed a stage  
And we are merely players  
Performers and portrayers  
Each another's audience  
Outside the gilded cage  
(Neil Pearl)

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And they were continually devoting  
themselves to the apostles' teaching and to  
fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to  
prayer. (Acts 2:42)

The second corporate disciple crucial for  
our growth in the faith:

2. Fellowship (*koinonia*)  
communion or communication

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When you here "fellowship", what comes  
to your mind?

People sharing with each other the  
Truths of Jesus and His Kingdom!

Think of a massive redwood tree...

What about a fire...

**ekklesia: keeping it simple (Acts 2:42)**

Fellowship – transparency, being real,  
encouragement, patience, sharpening,  
sharing, trust, and above all, LOVE!

Who are you, really?

What are your struggles?

What are your fears and doubts?

Therefore, confess your sins to one another,  
and pray for one another, so that you may  
be healed. The effective prayer of a  
righteous man can accomplish much.  
(James 5:16)