

Conversation Starter

For the week of April 27 to May 3, 2008

This Week's Theme: Fellowship Is Essential
Reading #1: 1 John 1:3-4
Reading #2: Acts 2:42-47
Reading #3: Hebrews 10:25a

In the apostle John's 1st letter as found in the Bible he writes: *We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. (1 John 1:3-4)* John's words remind us that being part of a local fellowship of believers was a high priority among Christians in the early church. And how do we know this? The reading from the book of Acts as noted above describes in detail how fellowship was "lived out" among a particular group of Christians. (See Acts 2:42-27) In fact, this passage states that these believers in Jesus "*devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship...*" (Acts 2:42a) Being "devoted" to the fellowship of believers means being "dedicated", "loyal" and "faithful". In other words, for them, true fellowship was only possible when God's people were "devoted", fully dedicated, and absolutely loyal and faithful to the church community to which they belonged. Even the author of the book of Hebrews viewed fellowship among followers of Jesus as essential with these words: *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing... (Hebrews 10:25a)* The bottom line, then, for Christians today: fellowship is essential.

1. Why was fellowship viewed as essential among Christians in the early church?
2. How has your fellowship with other Christians benefited you?
3. What should be happening in a church community that is experiencing effective and meaningful fellowship among its members?
4. In what ways can you contribute to improving fellowship within Trinity so that it is more effective and meaningful?
5. Why do the scriptures caution us to "not give up meeting together"?

Prepared by: The Rev. Robert Roe
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