

What Kind of Church Did Jesus Envision?

- Acts 1:12-14 – 12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. 13 And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. 14 All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.
- Acts 2:42-47 - 42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.
- Acts 4:32-35 - 32 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.
- Acts 5:42 - And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

Koinonia

- Acts 2:42 - And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship...
- “fellowship” = *koinonia* = root word means “with” (Spanish = con / Romanian = cu)... community, partnership... the close association between people, emphasizing what is common between them
 - In Secular Greek
 - Sometimes referred to the marriage covenant
 - Sometimes referred to sexual intimacy
 - In the Bible
 - Used to describe how we are united to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
 - Used to describe when someone is suffering financially and someone comes to their help
 - Used to describe how we are called to suffer as Jesus suffered (Phil 3:10)
- 1 John 1:7 – But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Five Characteristics of this New Kind of Community

- 1. A Community of Self-Sacrificing Love
 - John 13:34-35 - 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
 - John 15:12 - This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
 - 1 John 4:10-12 - 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.