

Gospel and Family

Read Acts 2:42-47

As we read these verses we are struck at how much this first Christian community acted and looked like a genetic family. The sharing of resources, the eating together and the sharing of their lives.

On Sunday we looked at the creation of family as the place that God's purpose would be commissioned and lived out. This study looks at some of the events in the early Church to see how this was understood by the first Christians.

God has created us to be in community and in particular, a family. Often a family is the most difficult place to live out the Gospel however.

1. How does Acts 2:17 reveal that God's intention for the Holy Spirit's outpouring involved transforming families not just individuals?
2. Note Peter's statement in Acts 2:38-39 about the transforming work of the Holy Spirit. Some people argue that the Baptism with the Holy Spirit was only a once-off event. But how does this verse refute that and also how does it reveal God's intention for the Holy Spirit to transform families?

God wants every child to come to know Him. Some Christian parents *hope* that this will happen without any effort to improve the chances of it happening. God expects parents to teach and train their children about God and His ways - but above all, to model what knowing and loving God looks like. This parental responsibility can not be delegated to a school, Children's ministry, Youth Group, or a church.

3. In what ways does Acts 2:42 suggest that parents were to shape the home-life of their children?
4. What do we observe about the early church's position on the church community being family together Acts 6:1-7?
5. How do the following Acts references show that God intends to transform entire families? (Acts 11:14; 16:15, 31; 18:8)

Living the Gospel in family life brings us inevitably to the practice of hospitality. Without hospitality the new life we demonstrate is hidden and unseen.

6. Is hospitality as essential today as it was in Acts 2:46? Why or why not?
7. What are some modern expressions of hospitality? Describe someone who has demonstrated "hospitality . . . what attitude/activity characterized this person?"