

Joined Together for Love

The Gospel in Motion

Acts 4: 32-37

1) Joined with God – our first belonging

Before we can understand the shared life of the early church, we must see the deeper joining that begins in the generous heart of God. At Pentecost, God's Spirit came to rest on each person, marking them each as God's new dwelling place, replacing the temple.

- How does knowing that God has joined his life to yours through the Holy Spirit shape your sense of identity?
- Do you ever struggle to believe that God's love for you is constant and not merit-based?

2) From solitude to community

Solitude teaches us who we are: beloved children of God. When we carry that belovedness into our relationships, we begin to see others the same way, and thus evolves community. The early believers weren't of one heart and soul because they agreed on everything, but because they were united in Christ.

- How does knowing your identity as God's beloved prepare you to live in unity with others?
- How do you think Covenant does being "of one heart and soul" even amid our differences?

3) Practicing unity with Christ at the center

Christ is stronger than anything that threatens to divide us. When Christ is primary, everything else finds its right place, and we can live with generous hearts, be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger.

- What helps you keep Christ at the center when disagreements or tensions arise?
- In what specific areas of your life can you reflect this kind of generous listening and patient love that reflects Christ's strength and unity?

4) Community creates generous hearts

When we know who we are, we will know what to do with what we have. The Spirit who

dwells in us calls us to give ourselves away, to use our resources to bring people together. This embodiment of God's kingdom, where everyone has enough and no one is afraid, is a beautiful model for our lives together.

- How does your sense of belonging in Christ shape your approach to generosity and service?
- If our church (and the church universal) fully lived out this vision of shared generosity, how might the world see the church differently?