

# **The Apostolic Fellowship**

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## I. Apostolic Fellowship. (Acts 2:42)

### A. The church is called a fellowship.

1. This word has been abused.
2. It means an intimate sharing together - a communion of heart and mind.
3. Before there can be communion, there must be union.
  - a. It is said in the Bible.
  - b. It is stated in the creeds (statements of Creeds).
    - 1) Some of the most important Bible material distilled exists in the Creeds.
    - 2) One of the old creeds speaks of the “communion of saints.”
    - 3) Distance divides matter, but it does not divide spirit.
4. We sing of communion, but we do not practice it.
5. The true church is not divided already - it is not about forming one super church.

### B. The church is a fellowship of truth.

1. The Scriptures contain all we need.
  - a. Our communion centers around the Scriptures.
  - b. The Lord does not need to speak through visionaries when He has the Holy Spirit and the Scriptures as a means of communication.
  - c. We want nothing more than the Scripture has to offer.

### C. The church is a fellowship of life.

1. Those who have been born again in life from God compose the church.
2. There can be pretenders, but the intent of the church is to be composed of transformed individuals.
3. There is still organization, but the church is primarily an organism.
4. We share life by the Holy Spirit.

D. The church is a fellowship of presence.

1. Jesus is in our presence. (Matthew 28, John 14, Ephesians 2)
2. We can know He is here by theology and by the mystic experience.
3. We want to know His presence consciously.
4. This is one of the most important things for Christians.
5. You are not better because you are in church - the purpose is greater than this.

E. The church is a fellowship of love.

F. The church is a fellowship of service.

1. We meet in order to charge our batteries that we might serve.
2. We must go about doing good like the Lord.
3. This is more than buttering sandwiches.
4. We should not want to die knowing that we have not helped people.
  - a. This is more than preaching the gospel.
  - b. Do not talk to a hungry man about Jesus first.
  - c. We are to help in more than spiritual ways.

G. Entering into the kingdom of Jesus.

1. We have become new creatures.
2. This is our fellowship.
3. We are a priesthood of believers.
4. The new creation is far different from the old creation.
  - a. You can often tell the new creation by where the world slaps you - if on the back, then you are one of them, and if on the face, you are one of His.

**Application questions.**

1. It has been said that the church is both one and many - both visible and invisible. In light of the message, how would you explain this?

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2. Of the five characteristics of the church, which one stands out to you? Which one of these does your local body seem to be lacking in the most? Explain.

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3. The church is a community of individuals. What part can you play in fostering fellowship in your local church? Be specific.

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