

## Fun and Food

Last week our theme was 'give generously', and it has a direct connection with this week's theme, which my Bible unites by providing a title for our passage to read as 'The Fellowship of the Believers.' I can't remember where I heard this interesting definition of fellowship, but it was 'more than friendship, but certainly not less.' *What would you consider to be the essential ingredients that comprise fellowship?*

### Read Acts 2:42-47

There are many passages in the New Testament which direct Christians to live in ways which reflect Jesus' example and teaching. In our passage Luke describes how the young church organised itself to achieve this, and, as a consequence, effectively witnessed to the surrounding community, and the church continued to grow. How does this fit with our theme of **Fun and Food**?

No question that the sharing of food is recognised across all cultures as a way of developing friendships. It is used by many, including our church, both corporately (new-comers lunch, Alpha etc) and informally between church members. *Discuss how successful or not this food sharing principle is in your experience. Are there some different ways of sharing food we should try as a church or as individual Christians? Do you see the sharing of a meal with fellow Christians and/or strangers as simply a good thing to do, or something more? Are there any drawbacks that might arise if the church promoted a meal sharing programme?*

Verse 42 is considered to contain 'the four marks of church', the four things that every church must deliver and encourage for its membership, namely teaching, fellowship, breaking bread and prayer. They are an unbreakable set, all are necessary. From the whole passage it would seem that there was real fellowship and harmony amongst the members. They were sharing activities, some of which would need to be of a 'serious' nature, and some less so. Despite this, or perhaps because of it, what they were doing was attractive to the surrounding community, they 'enjoyed the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily.' *What can we learn from this? Our church continues with the 'four marks', yet our surrounding community does not see what we are and do as attractive. I suspect if you asked our local community to describe what our church is doing, the word fun would not be included in their answer. Are we doing things differently from the early church? If so, why is that, and what needs addressing if we are to 'add to our number'?*

There can be little doubt that most people are attracted to activities that include some fun, something lighter than the daily routine. *Do you think being a Christian can include fun? Is it theologically okay to have fun, or is our faith only a serious business? If fun can be acceptable, why might we be failing to communicate this to those outside?*

*If we conclude that fun can and should be an integral part of our faith, do we, as a church, risk compromising our faith and belief in making what we do more 'fun filled.' What moral lines, if any, need to be drawn?*

## Prayer

Lord, source of joy, help me see the opportunities for playfulness and laughter in life around me, and let me be inspired to participate in your good gifts. Help holy merriment overflow abundantly in my life as a light that reflects you. Amen. ([reclaimtoday.org](http://reclaimtoday.org))