

Weekly Devotions: LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER 15

Agape Love is to have a Generous Heart

It is rare to find that 100% of our members are tithing and every baptized believer tithing 10% or more of his / her income. It is even rarer to have members selling all they possess to give to those in the church who are in need.

From the accounts in Acts, the early believers devoted themselves to *koinonia* which means sharing things in common. The apostle Luke used the Greek word *hapanta koina*, “all things in common” in Acts 2: 44 and 4: 32. This did not literally mean the possessions of the early believers were common property but that in heart and mind they were generous and sacrificial, sharing what they had with those in need. To them material possession was what God had given them to be used to bless others. From time to time, some believers would even sell their possessions and gave the proceeds to the Church (2: 45 & Acts 4: 34-35).

The early believers were not expected or asked to share their possessions with one another; they did it on their own accord. Luke emphasized that they were constantly looking out and caring for each other, especially those who were poor and in need.

A Spirit-filled church is a loving and caring community; when we are one with God, inevitably, we will be one with one another. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost led to the birth of a community of believers who were committed to God’s mission, hungry for His word, devoted to prayer and worship and cared for one another. There is much we can learn from the early believers on what it means to be a community of Spirit-filled believers.

Read Acts 2: 42-47; 4: 32-37

Questions to ponder

1. What possessions would you be ready to part with in order to help a friend in need? Why is it difficult to share / give away the things we possess and how can you be more generous towards the needy in your church?
2. What did the early believers do together and what sort of community were they (Acts 2: 42-47)? How does your church community compare with the community life of the Early Church?
3. What attitude did the early believers have towards one another (Acts 4: 32) and why were there no needy persons in the Early Church (34)? Suggest ways your church can help those who may be in need of medical care, school fees, living expenses of those retrenched, etc.

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