

THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE APOSTLES' TEACHING AND TO FELLOWSHIP, TO THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND TO PRAYER. EVERYONE WAS FILLED WITH AWE AT THE MANY WONDERS AND SIGNS PERFORMED BY THE APOSTLES. ALL THE BELIEVERS WERE TOGETHER AND HAD EVERYTHING IN COMMON. THEY SOLD PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS TO GIVE TO ANYONE WHO HAD

ACTS 2:42-47

NEED. EVERY DAY THEY CONTINUED TO MEET TOGETHER IN THE TEMPLE COURTS. THEY BROKE BREAD IN THEIR HOMES AND ATE TOGETHER WITH GLAD AND SINCERE HEARTS, PRAISING GOD AND ENJOYING THE FAVOR OF ALL THE PEOPLE. AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAILY THOSE WHO WERE BEING SAVED.

ACTS 2:42-47

A large, diverse crowd of people is shown in a church setting, likely during a service or event. The people are seated in pews, and the atmosphere appears to be one of community and shared experience. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

Church *Matters*

Why we *(still)* need
to be together

**Church
Matters**

ACTS 2

V. 42-47

**Church
Matters**

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**Church
Matters**

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ACTS 2:42-47

**Church
Matters**

**Church
Matters**

WE LACK THE DETAILS OF THESE ELEMENTS, BUT ONE THING IN PARTICULAR IS SURPRISING, RELATIVE TO MORE RECENT PATTERNS OF WORSHIP: CHRISTIANS MET FOR MEALS. A DISTINCTIVE MEAL TRADITION— HERE CALLED THE “BREAKING OF THE BREAD”— WAS NOT A SOCIAL EVENT ADDITIONAL TO WORSHIP, OR A PROGRAMMATIC ATTEMPT TO CREATE FELLOWSHIP

ANDREW MCGOWAN

**Church
Matters**

AMONG THE CHRISTIANS, BUT THE REGULAR FORM OF CHRISTIAN GATHERING [...] THEY WERE NOT MERELY ONE SACRAMENTAL PART OF A COMMUNITY OR WORSHIP LIFE BUT THE CENTRAL ACT AROUND OR WITHIN WHICH OTHERS—READING AND PREACHING, PRAYER AND PROPHECY—WERE ARRANGED.

ANDREW MCGOWAN

**Church
Matters**

**Church
Matters**

SO THEN, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHEN YOU
GATHER TO EAT...

1 CORINTHIANS 11:33

**Church
Matters**

DIMENSION #1:
BACKWARD

**Church
Matters**

AND HE TOOK BREAD, GAVE THANKS AND BROKE IT,
AND GAVE IT TO THEM, SAYING, "THIS IS MY BODY
GIVEN FOR YOU; DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF
ME."

LUKE 22:19

**Church
Matters**

**Church
Matters**

FOR WHENEVER YOU EAT THIS BREAD AND DRINK
THIS CUP, YOU PROCLAIM THE LORD'S DEATH UNTIL
HE COMES.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:26

**Church
Matters**

**Church
Matters**

SURELY HE TOOK UP OUR PAIN AND BORE OUR SUFFERING, YET WE CONSIDERED HIM PUNISHED BY GOD, STRICKEN BY HIM, AND AFFLICTED. BUT HE WAS PIERCED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, HE WAS CRUSHED FOR OUR INIQUITIES; THE PUNISHMENT THAT BROUGHT US PEACE WAS ON HIM, AND BY HIS WOUNDS WE ARE HEALED. WE ALL, LIKE SHEEP, HAVE GONE ASTRAY, EACH OF US HAS

ISAIAH 53:4-6

**Church
Matters**

TURNED TO OUR OWN WAY; AND THE LORD HAS
LAID ON HIM THE INIQUITY OF US ALL.

ISAIAH 53:4-6

**Church
Matters**

**Church
Matters**

DIMENSION #2:
FORWARD

**Church
Matters**

WHEN THE HOUR CAME, JESUS AND HIS APOSTLES RECLINED AT THE TABLE. AND HE SAID TO THEM, "I HAVE EAGERLY DESIRED TO EAT THIS PASSOVER WITH YOU BEFORE I SUFFER. FOR I TELL YOU, I WILL NOT EAT IT AGAIN UNTIL IT FINDS FULFILLMENT IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD."

LUKE 22:14-18

**Church
Matters**

AFTER TAKING THE CUP, HE GAVE THANKS AND SAID, "TAKE THIS AND DIVIDE IT AMONG YOU. FOR I TELL YOU I WILL NOT DRINK AGAIN FROM THE FRUIT OF THE VINE UNTIL THE KINGDOM OF GOD COMES."

LUKE 22:14-18

**Church
Matters**

**Church
Matters**

ON THIS MOUNTAIN THE LORD ALMIGHTY WILL PREPARE A **FEAST OF RICH FOOD** FOR ALL PEOPLES, A BANQUET OF AGED WINE, THE BEST OF MEATS AND THE FINEST OF WINES. ON THIS MOUNTAIN HE WILL DESTROY THE SHROUD THAT ENFOLDS ALL PEOPLES, THE SHEET THAT COVERS ALL NATIONS; HE WILL SWALLOW UP DEATH FOREVER. THE SOVEREIGN LORD WILL WIPE AWAY

ISAIAH 25:6-8

**Church
Matters**

THE TEARS FROM ALL FACES; HE WILL REMOVE HIS
PEOPLE'S DISGRACE FROM ALL THE EARTH. THE
LORD HAS SPOKEN.

ISAIAH 25:6-8

**Church
Matters**

**Church
Matters**

DIMENSION #3:
INWARD

SO THEN, WHOEVER EATS THE BREAD OR DRINKS THE CUP OF THE LORD IN AN UNWORTHY MANNER WILL BE GUILTY OF SINNING AGAINST THE BODY AND BLOOD OF THE LORD. EVERYONE OUGHT TO EXAMINE THEMSELVES BEFORE THEY EAT OF THE BREAD AND DRINK FROM THE CUP.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:27-28

**Church
Matters**

**Church
Matters**

DIMENSION #4:
OUTWARD

**Church
Matters**

SO THEN, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHEN YOU
GATHER TO EAT, YOU SHOULD ALL **EAT TOGETHER.**

1 CORINTHIANS 11:33

**Church
Matters**

**Church
Matters**

TWO SUGGESTIONS:

**Church
Matters**

TWO SUGGESTIONS:

- TAKE COMMUNION TOGETHER.

TWO SUGGESTIONS:

- TAKE COMMUNION TOGETHER.
- CONSIDER ANY CONFLICT THAT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED.

**Church
Matters**

“THEREFORE, IF YOU ARE OFFERING YOUR GIFT AT THE ALTAR AND THERE REMEMBER THAT YOUR BROTHER OR SISTER HAS SOMETHING AGAINST YOU, LEAVE YOUR GIFT THERE IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR. FIRST GO AND BE RECONCILED TO THEM; THEN COME AND OFFER YOUR GIFT.”

MATTHEW 5:23-24

**Church
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**Church
Matters**