

## “Together”

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by Wayne Goff

*“Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common” Acts 2:44.*

It would be hard to over emphasize the fact that the first church on earth in Jerusalem was a **group** of believers – believers who were **together**. The amazing salvation, unity, and oneness of these first converts is something all true preachers today must envy. So much of the time we preach about keeping the brethren **together, united, and of one mind**. The covid pandemic has done a real number on churches in America, and perhaps around the world. Unable to “assemble” **together**, brethren have been put under a great strain to maintain their faith and faithfulness. Some have come to think that a “virtual meeting” online is the equivalent of being together as a congregation. It is not, and those who *crave* the friendship, closeness and bond of unity know it!

### Why “Together”?

Consider the fact that the church in Jerusalem in **Acts 2** was the first one on the face of the earth, ever! What did it mean to be saved by the blood of Jesus? After baptism, what do you do next? How did the Lord “add” them to the church? And what **is** the “church” after all? You can see how these first new converts needed time and attention to figure out what it meant to (1) be a Christian, and (2) be a part of the church. Consequently, it was important to keep this band of believers **together** for some time.

The text tells us how this church was solidified. The apostles **taught** them (**Acts 2:42**), just as Jesus had told them in **John 14-16**. There was no recorded New Testament yet, so the Holy Spirit perfectly guided the apostles into “*all truth*” and the apostles perfectly taught it to the first church.

Secondly, the church learned to be together in “*fellowship*” (**Acts 2:42**; joint participation, joint sharing). You can’t be *apart* and do this *together*! So they had to learn what it meant to be together as a group of believers, and who was to be included in that group. (If you’re not sure, simply read **1 John 1:1-3**).

Thirdly, the church practiced the proper worship – communion and prayers are mentioned *specifically*, **Acts 2:42**.

The **results** of these three things being done – *established* convictions, *secured* grouping together, and *united* worship – was “*all who believed were together, and had all things in common*” (Acts 2:44). You could not have made this group more tight-knit if you tried!

### What About Us?

Today we must **rebuild** the church after the pandemic. We did the best we could under the circumstances, but there is **no substitute** for being together. Some have grown accustomed to worshipping “online” or “virtually.” When health or other circumstances prevent you from meeting *personally*, it is wonderful to have the live-stream option. Those **forced** to remain at home would have no other means of edification. But there are those who have grown accustomed to the convenience of the live-stream option. They *could be* at the building, worshipping and working **together**, but it’s just so *easy* to stay home and watch online! For these worshipers and Christians, we must teach again the importance of the church’s assembly for worship and building up!

It’s not hard to see the pattern. The churches of the New Testament came “*together*” (**Acts 20:7**) on the first day of the week. They were tight-knit and steadfast in their assembling (**Acts 2:42-44**). They were commanded **not** to forsake the “*assembling together*” (**Heb. 10:25**). On and on we could go with Scripture after Scripture showing the importance of being *together*, bonding *together*, worshipping *together* and working *together*. As I have often said in my sermons: “**The church comes together, to do together, what cannot be done alone!**” Think about that, brothers and sisters.

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