

1) To begin, let's look at more of what Luke has to say about this new group of Christians.

**Acts 2:42–47 (NIV)**

- 2) Of course, by Luke's statement "all believers were together" he does not mean that all of these 3000 plus individuals lived in exactly the same house.
  - a) He is speaking communally – sharing in various ways.
  - b) When we were kids living in our family home, we had all things "in common".
  - c) Normally, if there was milk in the fridge it was there for anyone who wanted to drink it.
  - d) There were probably certain things like your dad's chair but even then, it was not a sacred thing (at least not in most houses). (Archie Bunker's house)
- 3) However, when Luke says they had all things in common, he is indicating something at least a little bit beyond the bottle of milk in the fridge.
- 4) Here was a situation that was unique.
  - a) One must assume that the primary reason all these folks stayed was to learn from the apostles about this new life and to establish firmly their knowledge of the Savior.
  - b) Many of these new converts were not originally from Jerusalem.
  - c) They had to have lodging and food and other necessities that perhaps were not readily available.
  - d) They would have to find work and earn livings.
  - e) So many things to consider and that is what really led to the situation as portrayed here.
- 5) This shared life quickly developed in particular direction which is both fascinating and controversial.
- 6) No, all these early Christians did not live under one roof – however, they were drawn into an attitude of sharing through their new shared faith, baptism, breaking of bread and teaching.
  - a) All that said "we are family".
  - b) This brought about the selling of properties and doing whatever was required to "make this situation work".
- 7) What was not unique was the sharing. This was not necessarily new to the disciples and even perhaps the devout followers among the 120 or so larger group.
- 8) In fact, this is really not uncommon for these times at all.
- 9) The Essenes at Qumran also lived in a communal life style – Josephus tells us this.

- a) One discovery which was made in the excavation of Qumran was two jars filled with over 500 coins of various denominations and from various nations (various nations not uncommon).
- b) Additionally and as further confirmation of the communal life style, no other coins were found anywhere in the settlement.

10) In fact, the disciples, as you will recall, had a common purse, to which they likely all contributed and from which they all shared.

11) N.T. Wright makes the comment about what this meant to this early church:

When Jesus' followers behave like this, they sometimes find, to their surprise, that they have a new spring in their step. There is an attractiveness, an energy about a life in which we stop clinging on to everything we can get and start sharing it, giving it away, celebrating God's generosity by being generous ourselves. And that attractiveness is one of the things that draws other people in.

Wright, N. T.. Acts for Everyone, Part One: 1 (The New Testament for Everyone) (p. 47). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

12) This is undoubtedly one of the reasons Luke could conclude this passage with the statement that "the Lord was adding to their number each day".

13) Another important thing to note here is that these new Christians were finding favor with all the people.

- a) They were changed!
  - i) Loving, caring, and so many other attributes that we are to have that when others see them in us, they notice in a good way.
  - b) The Romans, throughout their history with the Christians, though they had issues with their worship and them not worshipping the Roman Gods (at times) always found Christians to be good citizens – good people.

***Do we see this model of Christian living being carried out in our churches today?***

***If yes, HOW?***

***If no, Why Not?                      And                      Should it be?***

**Acts 3:1–10 (NIV)**

- 1) The Jewish community had three times a day during which they prayed, morning (9:00 am), afternoon (3:00 pm), and finally, at sunset.
  - a) The fact that Peter and John were going to the temple at the ninth hour (3:00 pm) indicates that they were at least keeping that tradition.
  - b) My guess would be that, they were actually still living **for the most part** as obedient Jews regards the law not withstanding the sacrifices etc..

- c) The big difference for them was they had the Messiah and the new covenant.
- d) God was still God and the Temple was still the temple.
- e) Bottomline – they have much maturing to do.
- f) We see this clearly in the content of many of Paul’s letters as he addresses Jews trying to stay Jewish in their way of life.
  - i) As a result, binding traditions on Christians that were not to be bound.
- 2) Of course, the temple was obviously a MISSION SPACE – a place where they could share Christ with others.
- 3) On this day, as Peter and John approached the temple, a beggar asks them for money.
  - a) He may have been in our “today’s terms” a homeless person – we just don’t know much more.
  - b) The man was also crippled (lame from birth).
- 4) As he proceeded to ask for a handout, Peter and John together approached him and got his attention.
- 5) They had nothing in the way of money to give the man but they simply spoke the words:  
“In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, walk!”
- 6) Helping him up, the man began to walk and leap and praise God for the blessing he had received.