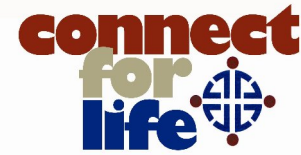


Why is important to have both “teaching” and “partnership”?
What happens to a church that has only “teaching” without
“partnership”? What happens if the church has a sense of
“partnership” but lacks biblical teaching?

Likewise, what happens to individual Christians when only one
of these building blocks is present?

To what extent are these two building blocks at work in your
life? What would it take for them to be present in a more
significant way?



“The Building Blocks of Community”

September 24th, 2006
Acts 2

“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had 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)

What are the building blocks of community?

The WARNING Label...

“they devoted themselves...”

“devote” can include the idea of “persisting” or “continuing to do something despite difficulties”

Two Building Blocks...

- Apostolic Teaching

“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching...”

With this phrase, Luke emphasizes:

- authority
- content

- Spiritual Partnership

“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship...”

koinonia = “sharing real life”; it’s a connectedness that’s based on something in common

Why do some miss out on this type of life?

- Negative experiences in the past
- Unrealistic expectations
- American individualism
- Busyness
- We don’t know what we are missing

Do you have questions/comments about what you have heard? You can contact George at 237-6094 or george@salemefc.org

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

In this message, George talked about Luke’s “warning label”—it’s an acknowledgement that biblical community takes work. What do you perceive to be the greatest challenges to this type of “connected life”? What’s the greatest challenge to you personally?

Imagine that you were part of this new church in Acts 2. What do you think were some of the hardships that they faced in uniting a diverse group of new Christians? What can we learn from their experience?

As Luke describes this church community, he highlights their dependence on “apostolic teaching.” Clearly, biblical truth is important for healthy churches. What are signs that a church takes biblical truth seriously? What are signs that it doesn’t?

In addition to apostolic teaching, Luke emphasizes the importance of “spiritual partnership.” How would you describe what it looks like for people to share life together? Give concrete examples.