

Do It Together!

I want to talk to you about an age old battle, it has been RAGING for years. It is a battle between two choices.

Waffle House or iHop?.....

You see, that is the point of community!

- Breaking bread together!
- Spending countless hours in real conversation, about the silly things of life as well as the deeper things!
- Taking new friends with you, giving them a chance to decide for themselves if they fit!
- Reaching out to the people around you during all this time, and pulling them in so they can discover what you all share in common!
- Allowing God to add to your numbers as He sees fit.

Lets take a look at Acts!

- This was written by Luke, the evangelist, who is also thought to be the author of the Gospel of Luke.
- This book was dubbed “The Acts of the Apostles” by a theologian named Iraneaus.
- It followed the Apostles as they spread the message of Jesus and His sacrifice and teachings.

Acts 2: 42-47

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43** Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. **44** All the believers were together and had everything in common. **45** They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. **46** 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, **47** praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

First off, I usually find it pretty pertinent to pay attention to repetition in the Bible.

- Breaking bread together is mentioned twice here! It is the only aspect of this group of Christians important enough to say twice.
- Breaking bread is eating together! This is so simple! Go out and eat together and be merry. This is the easiest command to follow. So, make it interesting. Switch it up, have some fun with it.
- Cook-outs, Qdoba, home made pasta, or P.F. Changs! It doesn’t matter, just spend time eating things together!
- Don’t forget my favorite, WAFFLE HOUSE!

Now clearly there is more in this passage. I don’t have time to show you the biblical back-up to each of them, but feel free to research them on your own!

Verse 42: They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship...

- **Devote yourself to the teachings of the apostles.** Our closest connection to the apostles is THE BIBLE! Read a chapter a day, study it, spend time in God's Word getting to know God and what He wants for you!

2nd Timothy 3: 15-17

15 and how from infancy you have known **the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.** **16** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **17** so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- **Devote yourself to fellowship.** The best way to do that, is spend time with each other! Do things together! Go shopping, for clothes or groceries. Shoot hoops or get a manicure. Guys, I'll confess. I have gone to get a mani/pedi..and it was GLORIOUS! Getting a Manicure doesn't make you less manly. The word MAN is even in it!

Verse 42: ...to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

- **Don't forget to pray.** Prayer is our communication to God. The same way we are talking about spending time together, prayer is one way we do that with God. And its possible to do this with other people! Praying as a group is powerful.

1st Thessalonians 5: 16-18

16 Rejoice always, **17 pray continually,** **18** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Verse 45: They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

- **Use your own resources to help each other!** Your buddy has a problem, and you've got something that you can do about it, PROVE IT! Use what you have to help.

Verse 46: ...They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.

- **Invite each other over!** Spend time in each other's homes. You want to let someone into your life, you let them into your house.

Verse 47: praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people

- **Praise God the entire time!** God got us here. God is the reason we have love and fun together. Say thanks.

Ephesians 5: 19-20

Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, **20** always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

William Ham put it extremely well when he said,

“There are many things which a person can do alone, but being a Christian is not one of them. As the Christian life is, above all things, a state of union with Christ, and of union of his followers with one another, love of the brethren is inseparable from love of God. The personal relationship to Christ can only be realized when one has "come to himself" as a member of His Body, the Christian fellowship.”

This sense of community is what made the early church so attractive to non-Christians!

- Can you imagine what it would look like to live your life this way? Not only would you be a happier and more social person, but people would wonder **WHY** you take such good care of each other! **VERSE ABOUT LOVING EACH OTHER!**
- You would be secure in your relationships, your well-being, your belonging to a group of people with the exact same **BIG INTEREST** as you!
- This is said beautifully by A.W. Tozer

“Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshipers [meeting] together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship.”

Basically, tonight isn't a deep message. Tonight is a practical one. You have probably heard it all before. But maybe, just maybe, you'll actually listen to it tonight.

What I want you to get out of this is simple. Go out and do things! I don't care what they are, but do them together.