

**Next Steps Into A New Normal**  
**Connect In Community Regularly**  
**August 22, 2021**

Are you happy?

**Spending meaningful time with friends, family, people that we care about and who care about us is absolutely indispensable to human flourishing.**

“The single most common finding from a half-century’s research on life satisfaction not only from the U.S. but around the world is that happiness is best predicted by the breadth and depth of one’s social connections.”—Robert Putnam

**Fellowship = koinonia**

“Personalities united can contain more of God and sustain the force of His presence than scattered individuals.”—Dallas Willard

*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 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)*

**1. Fellowship requires authenticity.**

*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar, and the truth has no place in us... (1 John 1:7-8)*

**2. Fellowship requires commitment.**

*They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)*

**Fellowship doesn’t happen by accident.**

*Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. (Acts 2:46)*

**Personalities united can contain more of God and sustain the force of His presence than scattered individuals.**

**Shared suffering has a strange power to help us heal.**