

They Devoted Themselves to The Fellowship

***What insights can you derive from the picture of the people rowing (“two *fellows* in the same *ship*”)**

When you think of two fellows in the same ship, it means they are on a journey together, heading to the same destination, sharing or participating in the labor (or rowing) to get there, and experiencing the same joys and hardships along the way.(if one goes off course?, If a wave comes against one? If a whale rises beside one?)

The devotion to the fellowship (one of the elements describing the church)

Devotion = to be strong toward something (dedicate, earnest, continue ~committed)

Fellowship = to hold something in common

- Act 2:42 ESV And they **devoted** themselves to the apostles' teaching and **the fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

What do we hold in common? A relationship with Jesus & by default with one another

- 1Co 1:9 ESV God is faithful, by whom you were called into the **fellowship** of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 2Co 13:14 ESV The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the **fellowship of the Holy Spirit** be with you all.
- 1Jn 1:3 ESV that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so **that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.**

What do we hold in common? The community of Jesus

- Rom 15:26 ESV For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some **contribution** for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.
- 2Co 8:1-5 ESV We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 2 for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. 3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, 4 begging us earnestly for the favor of **taking part [the privilege of participating]** in the relief of the saints-- 5 and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.
- Heb 13:16 ESV Do not neglect to do good and **to share what you have**, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

What do we hold in common? The mission of Jesus

- Gal 2:9 ESV and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave **the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me**, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.
- Php 1:3-5 ESV I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your **partnership in the gospel** from the first day until now.

The book of acts is so appealing partly because of this devotion to fellowship - where could I concentrate an area of growth or focus to contribute to the fellowship?

- 1) The relationship with Jesus & his people? - **foster your relationship with Jesus → other will follow**
- 2) The community of Jesus and the care for one another? - **begin to care for the needs of others**
- 3) The mission of Jesus and the partnership of the gospel? - **become a partner in the gospel**