

## Harmony in the Church

**Acts 2:41-47 [NLT]** – *Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church—about three thousand in all. <sup>42</sup> They joined with the other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, sharing in the Lord's Supper and in prayer. <sup>43</sup> A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. <sup>44</sup> And all the believers met together constantly and shared everything they had. <sup>45</sup> They sold their possessions and shared the proceeds with those in need. <sup>46</sup> They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—<sup>47</sup> all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.*

### **Note: up, in and out.**

- **Up** – Bible teaching, praise & worship, prayer.
- **In** – relationship/fellowship in the church itself. Small groups, M30, fellowship events; but also – brother/sister relationships; friendships; getting to know each other on a more intimate level; and – strong marriages; happy family units, etc.
- **Out** – community events, evangelism. City Mission; Easter Celebration; Gap Camp; National Day of Prayer, etc.

### **Jesus' Example:**

**Luke 6:12-19** – *Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.*

<sup>13</sup>*And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles: <sup>14</sup>Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; <sup>15</sup>Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; <sup>16</sup>Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor.*

<sup>17</sup>*And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, <sup>18</sup>as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. <sup>19</sup>And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all.*

**Vision:** Believers Fellowship Center is a family church, a tabernacle of worship, a dynamic training center, using the Word of God, the Name of Jesus and the Ministry of the Holy Spirit to affect the individual, the family, the community and the world.

- Focus – most UP!
- Not wrong!

We need to build on this and improve the IN & OUT.

## **New Vision: Growing Disciples to Build the Kingdom.**

- It will require a continued strengthening of our fellowship with God. [UP]
- Growing disciples requires strengthening the IN.
- Becoming disciples who make disciples requires strengthening the OUT.

## **Relationships are challenging!**

- There's very little training.
- What's easy for some is difficult for others.
- Differences in gifts & temperaments.
- Illustration: lady who kept blocking my view at Caden's program.

## **What role do you play?**

- **Dependent** – a person who depends on or needs someone or something for aid, support, favor, etc.
- **Independent** – not influenced or controlled by others; thinking or acting for oneself; refusing to be under obligation to others. [**Note**: this person tries to make a relationship work without any willingness on their side to adjust or adapt to needs of the other(s) in the relationship]
- **Codependent** – of or pertaining to a relationship in which one person is physically or psychologically addicted, as to alcohol or gambling, and the other person is psychologically dependent on the first in an unhealthy way.
  - **Characteristics of a Codependent**: (1) A lack of objectivity; (2) A warped sense of responsibility; (3) Being easily controlled & controlling others; (4) Hurt & anger; [**Note**: "*He who angers you, controls you!*"] (5) Guilt; (6) Loneliness.]
- **Interdependent** – mutually dependent; depending on each other.
  - **I.e.**, we come into the relationship without losing our identity; rather we use the strengths of who we are for mutual benefit.
  - **Synergism** – the interaction of elements that when combined produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the individual elements, contributions, etc.

## **Selfishness.**

- **Dictionary**: caring only or chiefly for oneself; concerned with one's own interests, welfare, etc., regardless of others.
- **James 3:14** – *But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.*
  - **James 3:14** “speaks against having selfishness or self-promoting in your heart.” [**Strong's**]
  - **Believers Bible Commentary** – His one passion in life is to advance his own interests. He is jealous of any competitors and ruthless in dealing with them. He is proud of his wisdom that has brought success.
- **Philippians 2:3, 4** – *Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. <sup>4</sup> Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing.*

- **Selfish** (here) the desire to be #1 no matter what the cost. The need to be recognized for anything done.
- **Note:** Selfishness is almost always blind (oblivious) to itself! [The beginning of your victory is in awareness]
- **Remedy for selfishness: Ephesians 4:20-24** – *But you have not so learned Christ, <sup>21</sup>if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: <sup>22</sup>that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, <sup>23</sup>and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup>and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*
  - **Richards** – Any believer having a problem has not simply died to self, or put off the old man in that area and put on – activated, engaged or embraced the new man. There are no other problems, and there are no other solutions for the believer!
  - **Ephesians 2:1-6 [MSG]** – *It wasn't so long ago that you were mired in that old stagnant life of sin. You let the world, which doesn't know the first thing about living, tell you how to live. You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhaled disobedience. We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It's a wonder God didn't lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us. Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, he embraced us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. He did all this on his own, with no help from us! Then he picked us up and set us down in highest heaven in company with Jesus, our Messiah. [Put that off!]*
  - **Colossians 2:9, 10 [AMP]** – *For in Him the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature]. <sup>10</sup> And you are in Him, made full and having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and reach full spiritual stature]. And He is the Head of all rule and authority [of every angelic principality and power]. [Put that on!]*