

**Acts 2 | The Fruit of the Kingdom | Relationships**  
**Redemption Hill Church | Simon Murphy**  
**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

We've seen that when the gospel came and turned their lives upside down, empowered by the Spirit is reordered their priorities toward a few things:

1. **Towards God:** They devoted themselves to truth about God, the apostles doctrine. They longed for truth about God and for Him.
2. **To People:** Fellowship multicultural, met regularly, loved each other.
3. **To Possessions:** They gave away and shared. Took care of each other.

This week we are looking at what it did with their relationships with each other.

**Acts 2.42-47, 4.32:**

## 1. What do we see in the world today?

Today we see broken relationships around the world, even between Fathers and Sons, brothers, etc.

## 2. What happened though in Acts?

All who believed **were together**.  
Attending the temple together daily  
Breaking Bread in their homes  
Sense of joy and gladness  
They couldn't get out of each others lives!

**They weren't naturally like this!** The Jews were known for their animosity towards the Samaritans! (John 4.9 'For Jews do not associate with Samaritans') In Singapore there are many cultures but we also like to stick to our own kind.. American Club etc!

It was a **multicultural** group! Acts 2.5: Every nation under heaven.

Slaves and owners! In the same meetings! **Ephesians 6.1-9**  
**Philemon and Onesimus** (Phil 1.16) Run away slave, return on fear of death.

Yet the church is different!

This wasn't commanded or ordered (though it is commanded and ordered) but it was a fruit, a sign of life.

## 3. Why did it happen?

It happened because they devoted themselves to

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| 1. <b>doctrine,</b>         | <b>The Truth about Jesus come for his enemies</b> |
| 2. <b>breaking of bread</b> | <b>The cost of that reconciliation</b>            |
| 3. <b>praising God</b>      | <b>Rejoicing in the benefit to us!</b>            |

**Galatians 2.14:** Lives not in line with the truth of the gospel. Notice Paul's motivation. He doesn't pull the race card! So this was primarily because they broke bread together! It wasn't just a once off thing.

**How did this fellowship happen? Is what about the gospel made them come together and restore relationships?**

- **It shows us that we are made in the image of God, giving us immense value**

***You may ask why do Christians help people? Campaign against abortion etc?***

We are made in the image of God and our value of people comes from that. Only Christianity has the incredible value of people yet their desperate need of a Saviour. It changes the way we see people.

- **Utterly humiliating (Galatians 5.11)**

Therefore we are not better than or morally superior. **Speak about gossip and judging too.**

- **Identity defining – your predominant culture is the kingdom one.**

**Ephesians 2.14:** One new man out of the two

**Galatians 3.26:** We are the Sons of God through Christ

Martin Lloyd Jones “I would rather sit on a park bench with the lowliest of beggars..”  
*John Garang and I.*

The gospel truly does reach every culture and rich, poor, etc.

- **Initiative is taken**

The gospel story is that while you weren't looking. “I was found by those who weren't looking for me” **READ IS 65.1-2**

**Tarryn and I | The Stalbergs. We can never say ‘Well I tried’.**

**The outworking of this is that it can't change us without affecting us: Matt 18.33-45**

You can't break bread, study doctrine, praise God for reconciling you and hate others!

## **4. What else does this mean? What should we take from here?**

In God's kingdom there is no grounds for broken relationships. **Christ's death really does result in a new community of grace and love.**

**Now we are a community, and there will be some relational struggles! It doesn't mean everything is perfect. We will disappoint each other. But how does this affect us?**

There is a pretty amazing model for relationships that ties in with this gospel given in Jesus' teachings in Matthew 18:

1. Humility (Matt 18.4: “Whoever humbles himself”). **Don't let our pride get in the way. “I'm too important”.**
2. Sin (Matt 18.8: “If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off”).
3. Go after those who are lost (Matt 18.12: “go in search of the one who went astray”)
4. If your brother sins against you, go and show Him his fault (you initiate). **(Matt 5.23)**
5. Forgive endlessly (Matt 18.33)

**The gospel will make you love people completely!**

**Fruits:** We can be real, vulnerable, weak with each other, we don't have to impress each other, urge, exhort, rebuke, love etc.

**Conclusion:** We break bread – it brings us into the presence of Jesus, the presence of God, it melts our hearts, we can't do this while we hold things against others.