

Small Group Church Concept

Simplicity/Liberty

- Important references: Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35; 5:41-42; 6:1-6; 20:7, 20
- Acts 2:42- focus on fundamentals: teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, prayer

Definitions:

- fellowship- sharing in common, together; opposite of Old Testament concept of separation

- breaking bread- Lord's supper, communion- v.46; 20:7, 11

- Two-fold balance of settings for meetings-2:46; 5:42; 20:20; Romans 16:3-5-
“publicly and from house to house”
- What should we do in each setting? - All four fundamentals are allowable in both settings, but there are some distinctions.
 - teaching- done in both settings: chapter 2; 5:20, 21; 5:42; 20:20
 - fellowship- done only in larger setting: 4:34, 35; 5:1-11; 6:1-6
 - breaking bread- homes only- 2:46; 20:7
 - prayer- homes only- 4:23, 24, 31; 12:5, 12
- ☞ none of the four are forbidden in either setting
- ☞ practical considerations are important
- ☞ important thing is to incorporate these four fundamentals for a balanced group life
- Romans 12:3-8- balance in personal relationships, also: **unity/diversity**- this balance is appreciated more fully in a smaller group setting
 - ☞ more practical opportunities to learn love and forbearance/tolerance
 - ☞ more practical opportunities to discover and exercise spiritual gifts
 - ☞ more practical opportunities to learn leadership skills

“This I command you, that you love one another.” John 15:17