

Messages from concepts shared in “The Loneliness Solution: Finding Meaningful Connection in a Disconnected World” by Jack Eason. More free resources are available at: [www.jackeason.org](http://www.jackeason.org)

## We Are Family

Acts 2:42-47

### 3 Practical Ways to Experience “Family”

To truly love someone, you have to be with them, not living in *isolation* or *insulation*. But why did people in the early church *accept* this accountability? What fueled their desire to submit to one another? How were they able to live in this kind of authenticity?

Acts 2:42-47 uses the word *together* several times. The people ate **together**, prayed **together**, listened **together**. They did not live in isolation from one another. They also were not insulated from one another. Let's read it.

*Compassionate fellowship is one of the benefits of doing life in community and is impossible if we live life alone. How can we PRACTICALLY do that today? How did the disciples do it?*

#### 1. Gather around the Table

What creates the kind of fellowship we read about in Acts 2? Food has a way of disarming people and connecting people.

#### 2. Slow Down to Pray

Webster's defines *fellowship* as “companionship” or “company.”<sup>3</sup> When you hear the word *companion* you don't think of people running in opposite directions. Maybe if you are too busy, you need to slow down. Maybe if you are struggling to have real relationships, you need to slow down.

#### 3. Learn Self-Denial

For one heart and one mind to happen, self-denial is a critical component. It's not a term we use much today. Such a message won't draw a crowd. Why not?



Reach out to Jack-  
Jack@jackeason.com

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Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Gal. 6:2)

As iron sharpens iron, so, one person sharpens another. (Prov. 27:17)

So, in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (Rom. 12:5)

Call to Action:

What would you need to do to create atmosphere around the table?

Do you need to slow down to pray? What changes do you need to make in your life to connect?

What do you think about the concept of self-denial?

What areas of your life are you not denying self?

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