

RESTORING RELATIONSHIPS

THE IDEAL

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common.⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

THE REAL DEAL

They did their best to have quiet times regularly and attend church on the weekend, occasionally going out to lunch with each other after church or hitting up a kids eat free night at Moe's on Tuesday. They shared prayer needs regularly, however, they all communicated on different platforms like text messaging, Marco-Polo, Facebook Messenger, Teams or email so it wasn't uncommon to miss an update. On top of that, their cell phone would show they had 2,312 unread emails and 142 unopened text messages. Seriously?⁴³ Some of them were blown away and others were skeptical about the healings and miracles that had been happening.⁴⁴ When all the believers were together, they knew which topics, relationships and political issues to avoid because they usually lead to arguments.⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions to reinvest in other opportunities and improve their financial portfolio.⁴⁶ They regularly tried to attend the same service and would watch online if they were traveling or at home. There was just about always food and laughter involved,⁴⁷ they were thankful God brought them into each other's lives and most of them enjoyed each other. And a few of them knew a story about someone getting saved. Acts 2:42-47 (JSP)

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
Romans 12:18 (NIV)

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
Ephesians 4:2-3 (NIV)

THE ORDEAL

1. MAKE IT PERSONAL

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (NIV)

Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.
Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV)

2. PICK YOUR PAIN

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:1b-3 (NIV)

3. GET YOUR MASTERS IN FORGIVENESS

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV)

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."
Luke 23:34 (NIV)