

*Acts 2:42-47**The Fellowship of the Believers*

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

1. What has been your experience in finding a church home? What made the experience challenging? What made it easier? How did you know the church was "fit" for you -- or has remained a "fit" for you?
 2. In his short article, Brian Croft suggested four questions to ask before deciding on a church home? In his sermon, Jim offered several others. Which do you consider to be the most important questions to consider?
 3. In Acts 2:42-47, Luke describes what has become known as the "five-fold purpose of the church". Which purpose do you consider to be most important? Which purpose resonates most deeply with you? How important is it for a church to seek balance between all five purposes?
 4. In his short article, Tim Keller proposes several reasons for formal church membership? Do you agree or disagree with the importance he places on formally joining a church?
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If you would like to discuss the process of church discipline further with Pastor Jim, feel free to email him at jbirchfield@fpchouston.org

In addition, the two articles mentioned in questions 2 and 4 above can be found online:

“4 Questions to Ask Before Joining a Church”, Brian Croft

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/what-questions-should-i-ask-before-joining-a-local-church/>

“Why Formal Membership in a Church?”, Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2007

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/547b6ae7e4b010fe66b928f6/t/547bb048e4b01fb133034a85/1417392200207/Biblical-Basis-For-Membership.pdf>

Why is it Often so Hard to Find a Church Home?