

# A Seat at the Table

## 1 Corinthians 12:27

*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

### Focus Verse for the Koinonia Wall: Acts 2:42 (NIV)

*They devoted themselves to the **apostles' teaching** and to **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and to **prayer**.*

The Koinonia Wall to His Church is built with an insatiable \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ — and a seat at the \_\_\_\_\_.

### TODAY'S FOCUS PASSAGE: Acts 6:1-7 (NIV)

*In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup> So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup> Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup> and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." <sup>5</sup> This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. <sup>6</sup> They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. <sup>7</sup> So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.*

#### What problems arose and why?

#### What was causing division and why?

Koinonia was threatened by...

- \_\_\_\_\_ of neglect
- \_\_\_\_\_ of culture
- Loss of \_\_\_\_\_ focus
- Lack of a seat at the \_\_\_\_\_

#### What did they NOT do to solve this problem?

#### How DID they find a solution to this?

#### How do WE deal with this in our church?



# Digging Deeper

## A Picture of God's Ecclesiastical Table

Read these stories to better understand God's invitation to the table. *(20 minutes)*

- Luke 5:17-32
  - What is significant in these two stories about where Jesus went after his encounters with them?
  - Why do you think this is important?
- Luke 14:8-14
  - What does Jesus say about those who are at the table of God? (vs 10-11)
- Luke 14:15-24
  - What are the many things that Jesus says about the great banquet table of God? Examine the story carefully. Make a list.
- Luke 19:1-9
  - What was Zacchaeus' response back to Jesus when he was invited to the table?

Examine these phrases from examples we have in biblical stories, and talk through how they can be so important in the life of a Koinonia church. *(20 minutes)*

- Face to face
- One another
- A place at the table
- Breaking bread
- Crossing barriers of different kinds

## Personal Questions and Challenges: *(15 minutes)*

- Have you ever felt neglected in your church? If so, when? How?
- Have you ever neglected others in your church—either intentionally or unintentionally? If so, how and why?
- What issues in your own life seem to be the greatest hindrance to living out "Koinonia" in your church? (This might be a deeply personal question to answer.)

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## PERSONAL CHALLENGE

What do I need to do to...

- Find a place at the table with my church family?
- Extend a place at the table for others?

## READ AHEAD FOR NEXT WEEK

- Acts 4:23-31
- Acts 10