

Spring Semester 2018 – Encouraged in Our Devotional Life – Read Acts 2:42-47
They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Dear Friends & Family of True North,

Those are the rules! What rules? The first grade teacher said that in order for a student to hand out a Valentine, the individual giving them out would have to have one for everyone in the class. No one could be left out. Why? The teacher wanted the entire class to be friends. So the class would oblige. However, meltdowns still happened each year. In the passing out of Disney Princesses, one little girl cried because she was given Aurora/Briar Rose. This was the little girl's way of handing the least favorite princess to the people she really didn't want to give the Valentines to. Or with the boys, you were special with Batman, Superman, or the Flash. But the card with Robin was the equivalent to the Sleepy Beauty Valentine. Same thing with the Cyclops from the X-men Valentines. And especially to the little girls that received Ken on theirs. While the rules of the room were meant to teach sharing and kindness to all, there is always a way around that.

This week in the reading from Acts, we get a picture far different from the display of rank in the introduction. We hear how devoted the early church was to one another. We hear how they pooled their resources together so they could all share in the joy of knowing their Savior. Where has that type of church gone? Well, it's still here. The challenge comes in that there are still moments where sins of favoritism and selfishness make their appearances. They often do their damaging work. They create grudges and resentment. Those create sins of revenge and maliciousness. Why? Well, it starts with the disconnect to the teachings of our Savior. It ignores God's gracious forgiveness for us and the opportunities to express our gratitude by forgiving others. As our many celebrate Valentine's Day, may we never forget the ultimate action of love directed towards us – the death of our Savior. He did that to take away our sins of favoritism, selfishness, grudge holding, resentment, revenge, and maliciousness. He gives us the opportunity to pass that love on to others. It's not found in the DC or Marvel cards. It's not found among the Disney Princesses or Barbie Valentines. It's found in our treatment of one motivated by the gospel. The early church had it. We do too. May the Lord always help us to exercise the devotion to the Lord's word and kindness to one another.

The Lord's blessings this week!

Pastor Lindner

