

The writings of Fred M Smith, Christianity and Present-Day Problems

Compiled by Pat Chadwick

Fred M quoted acts: *Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.* Then he said: "Here is the placing together two ideas too frequently separated by religionist ...Doctrine has to do with religious principles...Fellowship connotes human associations and relations; it speaks of comradeship, of fraternity. Doctrine points to God and His commandments; fellowship indicates man and his doings. The saints of old continued steadfastly in *'both'*."

This parallel presentation of religious and fraternal affairs appears again in the very next phrase, *'and in breaking bread and in prayers.'* ...Breaking bread means eating, partaking of daily sustenance...friend, brothers eat together. Eating should be in peace and harmony...It is such in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, in this phrase, fraternity and prayers run together...'and all that believed were together'. Then as always before and ever since those of the same faith gathered...**The gathering of the saints was logical and inevitable in the days of Enoch, of Melchisedec, of Moses, of Isaiah, of Peter and it is logical and inevitable as well as divinely commanded in latter days.**"

Fred M's words fit well with the Document given to the Elders at Kirtland. The second stewardship listed said:

2. "Be willing to remove all barriers and Hindrances to the achievement of Zion. **You must become one.** This would include the groups and associations you have formed, and the responsibilities that you carry. Needful things will be restored. All else is inconsequential."

God's call since the days of Enoch has been for His people to come together in unity, in keeping His commandments and in the rich fellowship that is available through the Spirit of God. May we as a people move forward in this endeavor. God promises, "If you will heed these words you will marvel at the protection that I will give you."

Let Us Become United! Let's Do This Thing!!

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The Spirit saith further unto the church: The Lord is well pleased with the advancement which has been made in approaching unity during the conference year; and though there may have been differences of opinion, these differences have been held in unity of purpose and desire for the good of my people, and will result in helping to bring to pass a unity of understanding.

So be ye encouraged and press on to the the consummation designed of God for his people--unity, honor, sanctification, and glory. Amen.

*Joseph Smith. Lamoni, Iowa, April 18, 1909
DC 129:9a-c*

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