

Our Identity in Christ in Home Fellowships.

It says in the KJV in Matthew 11:30 *For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*
The Message Bible: *Keep company with me and you will live freely and lightly.*

Why wouldn't we choose Jesus as our Savior, our Teacher, our leader of the Body of Christ? He can teach us how to live, how to act and how to love one another. Since the day of Pentecost, believers met in the temple and in homes to learn about Jesus Christ. *Acts 5:42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*

Acts 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, 47Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

People got together for food, fellowship and outreach. Jesus taught his disciples, by example, practical ways to having a home fellowship / bible study. The gospels have at least 30 examples of Jesus Christ ministering by preaching, teaching and healing peoples in homes. (Even though we are in the Grace Administration, Romans 15:4 reminds us that all the books in the Bible are for our learning:

Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.)

Apparently, the culture of the day was to go to the temple once a week for a teaching. During his short ministry, Christ broke with that tradition by ministering in peoples' homes. One example from the Gospels shows Jesus visiting Peter's home in Matthew 8:14-15. Jesus arrived, healed all that were sick. In Matthew 9:10, he sat a meat with his disciples and others. Jesus Christ went to homes and ministered by preaching, teaching and healing.

Matthew 8:14-15 And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of fever. And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.

Matthew 9:10 And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house...

We discussed why homes might be better for ministering than a temple or church setting. Our group mentioned the difference in the attitude and atmosphere. How in a small group, people can be more open. Conversations can be more free-flowing or spontaneous. Anyone can ask questions and be taught by all in the group. We have the liberty to ask and teach each other, that doesn't happen in other environments. Imagine sitting in a big church or synagogue now or during the first century, raising your hand and asking for clarification?! Just not happening. Questions no one can answer can be written down, (We wrote 4), and researched for another time. Just like the believers in Berea in Acts 17:11.

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

The natural setting of our home is a place to: break bread, witness, entertain, preach, teach, and heal. Our home can be a center of love and outreach.

Jesus broke with tradition to minister in homes. He taught his disciples, by example, how to do this. So must we. Our homes can be havens like those in the first century! It says we should be witnesses for Christ in *Acts 1:8* *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.* -- including Cape Coral, Florida!

WORD re-SEARCH

It says in *Matthew 4:23* *And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.*

Rick had his Concordance and lexicon handy and shared with us insights on these three aspects of Jesus' ministering to the people.

Preach - from the Greek word *kerusso*, meaning to herald, to give instruction or direction or announce publically: making know without any reference to the contents, and not including the idea of teaching. We thought that an advertizing agency would be business that preaches.

Teach - from the Greek word *didasko*, means to teach.

Heal - from the Greek word *therapeuo*, to relieve of disease, cure, heal.

We can do the same in our home fellowship because Christ told us we could as he said in *John 14:12*. We can and we should, we only need to learn how. And so we will, in our own home fellowship. Come join us.

John 14:12 *Verily, verily I say unto you, He that believeth on me the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

August 27, 2017 by Dr. Robin L. Harris, Cape Coral, Fl