



# What Does Church Look Like?

28 June 2020

(Part 4)

**Acts 2:42-47**

Romans 12:9-21

1 Timothy 2:1-8

## Did You Come Today to Offer PROFOUND Worship?

- Did you come to WORSHIP God?
- What is your definition of PROFOUND worship? Is your definition the same as Christ's? Or do you decide for yourself what is acceptable worship of God? Consider: Psalm 99:5 - are these just words or are they **commands**?
- Did you come to hear more than to speak? (Ecclesiastes 7:1-8)
- Are you in intimate fellowship/koinonia with God? (1 John 1:3, 6-7)
- Are you in intimate fellowship/koinonia with your brothers and sisters? (Matt 5:21-24; 1 John 3:10-18; 4:7-12, 20-21; 5:2)
  - ★ Koinonia is something we DO to one another. (See Handout: Koinonia Defined by God). Are we really koinoniaing one another?
- Worship is something we gather together to DO - not to be entertained. Did you come to worship?
- ★ GOD DEFINES HIS WORDS - NOT US!
  - ☆ God defines what is acceptable worship of Him? ALL other forms of worship are an abomination.
  - ☆ God defines what koinonia is. Not to *koinonia* your brother and sister is sin.
  - ☆ God defines what church is to look like and what the members of His Body are to do and not do.

## What Would Christ Write in His Letter to Us?

- Would He find things to commend us?
- Would He find things to criticize us?
- Would He call us to repentance?
- So, it is wise for us to examine ourselves!
- BUT we must examine ourselves by Christ's standard - the **written** Word of God - not man's traditions, teachings, or customs.

## What Does Church Look Like? (Acts 2:42-47)

- On His feast of Weeks (Pentecost), God gave His Son His Holy Spirit and His Son gave the Holy Spirit to His Church. And what did the Church **DO**:
  - ✓ They became students of God's Word and His doctrine.
  - ✓ They fellowshiped together.
  - ✓ They celebrated their Lord regularly by reminding themselves of all that He had done for them - they broke bread together.
  - ✓ They prayed together.
  - ✓ They were filled with AWE.
  - ✓ They experienced the supernatural.
  - ✓ They cared for each other.
  - ✓ They made "every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit" by being of one accord.
  - ✓ They were filled with joy.
  - ✓ They worshiped together.
  - ✓ They grew together.

## They Continued Steadfastly (v. 42)

- (v. 42) "**They**" - not some of them but "they". "They" communicates that they did it together - NOT on their own.
- (v. 42) **Continuing steadfastly** (devoted) προσκατερέω

## TOP Four Priorities of a Church and Her Members

- ① Continuing steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine - God's doctrine - His **written** Word.
  - ② Continuing steadfastly in fellowship/koinonia.
  - ③ Continuing steadfastly in breaking bread together and remember who they are by the works of God in sending His Son into the world to die for **them**.
  - ④ Continuing steadfastly in prayer together.
- ★ Are these **TOP** priorities for you? Are you **being** Church to your brothers and sisters?

## Priority Number One - DOCTRINE (Acts 2:42)

- Doctrine determines EVERYTHING we do.

## They Continued Steadfastly in Fellowship

- κοινωνία koinonia {koy-nohn-ee'-ah}
  - 1) fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation, intercourse 1a) the share which one has in anything, participation
  - 2) to have in common with each other
- See 1 John 3:10-18.

- FELLOWSHIP (κοινωνία) “is the spiritual duty of believers to stimulate each other to **holiness** and **faithfulness**.”
- God defines what *koinonia* is. (See Handout: Koinonia Defined by God)

### They Continued Steadfast in Remembering (Acts 2:42)

- “in breaking bread” together. Here the breaking of bread would be them sharing in the LORD’s Supper as given to the apostles in the Passover dinner before Christ’s death.
- They continued steadfastly in reminding themselves of God’s great work on them in saving them.

### God’s Will or My Will

- Do we DO the Word of God or do we do what we want? (James 1:22)
- Do we DO what God says or do we do what I want God’s Word to say?
- Do we want Christ as Saviour but not Lord? If He is Lord then we are to do what His Word says. (Luke 6:46)
- Are we fools professing to be wise? (Matthew 7:24-29; Romans 1:22)
- Are we doing God’s will or our own will? (Matthew 7:21; 12:48-50; Luke 11:27-28; Hebrews 5:9; 1 Peter 4:2; 1 John 2:17; 3:23-24)
- It is the will of God that Christians pray privately and collectively as churches. (Colossians 4:2; 12; Luke 18:1; Matthew 6:9-15)
- A person who does not have a prayer life cannot call themselves a Christians. Christians pray. Christians pray as they are instructed (commanded) in the written Word of God.
- A church that does not pray together cannot really call itself a church. A church is a BODY that takes its directions from its Head - Christ. Throughout the New Testament the Church is commanded to pray together.

### They Continued Steadfastly in Prayer

- When God started His Church on Pentecost they were moved to pray together.
- (Acts 1:14) Waiting for the promise of God.
- (Acts 12:5, 12) Praying while one of theirs was in prison.

### Collective Prayer at HIBC/IBC

- As churches, we are commanded to pray together. So, how do we pray in obedience to God’s Word.
- We have eight prayer meetings through the week. The pastor encourages, exhorts and warns us to come out and pray together. The pastor equips us with teachings on how to pray in accordance with God’s Word and with resources to lead us into praying for those things that God commands us to pray.

### A Prayer Format that Helps Us to Obey God

- See handout: Prayer Card for 28 June.

#### • ACTS -



★ **Adoration** (Hebrews 13:15; 1 Peter 2:9; Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19-20; Psalm 145)

★ **Confession** of Sin (1 John 1:9; Daniel 9; Psalm 51; James 5:16; Nehemiah 9:9-37; **Proverbs 28:13**)

★ **Thanksgiving** (Psalm 95:2; 100:1-5; 147:7; Philippians 4:6; Colossians 3:17; 4:2; Ephesians 5:4, 20; Revelation 4:9; 7:12; 11:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Hebrews 13:15)

★ **Supplications** (Philippians 4:6; 1 Timothy 2:1; Ephesians 6:18; Psalm 55:22; 1 Peter 5:7).

- Praying to the Lord of harvest to send out His workers. (Luke 10:2)
- Praying for the persecuted. (Hebrews 13:3; 10:34; Romans 12:15; 1 Cor 12:26; Matthew 25:36, 43; Colossians 4:18)
- Praying of our nations and leaders. (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- Praying for the nation that God has us living right now. (Jeremiah 29:7)
- Praying for our enemies. (Matthew 5:44; Luke 23:24; Acts 7:60; Romans 12:14; 1 Peter 2:20-23; 3:9)
- Praying regularly for our missionaries. (3 John 6; 1 Thess 5:25; 2 Thess 3:1-2; Psalm 67:1-4)
- Praying for our churches that we would be all that God wants us to be. (Acts 2:42-46; Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thess)
- Praying for our brothers and sisters. (Colossians 4:12; Galatians 6:2; Matthew 6:11-13) What do you pray for?
  - See hanout: **Praying for Each Other**
  - We also pray for other **want** and **desires** of our brothers and sisters.
- Praying for GLOBAL CONCERNS. (1 Timothy 2:1; Acts 17:30)
- Praying (groaning) for Christ’s return. (Rom 8:23; Phillip 3:19-20; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 3:2; Luke 12:43)

### Is Our Prayer Life? Are We Doers of God’s Word?

- ☆ Biblical (Matthew 6:9-15; Luke 11:1-13)
- ☆ Struggling/Contending (Colossians 2:1)
- ☆ Serious and watchful (1 Peter 4:7; Matthew 26:41)
- ☆ Persistent (Matthew 7:7-8; Luke 18:1-8)
- ☆ Fervent (James 5:16; Colossians 4:2)
- ☆ Continuing steadfastly (Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2; Acts 2:42)
- ☆ Without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1; Romans 12:12; Eph 6:18)
- ☆ Laboring (Colossians 4:12)