



What Does Church Look Like?

(Part 7)

Acts 2:42-47

Galatians 6:1-10

1 Timothy 6:11-21

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

They Continued Steadfastly (Acts 2:42)

- (v. 42) **Continuing steadfastly** (devoted) προσκαρτερέω - committed to the Lord and each other. Church, (people, brothers and sisters) was a priority.

TOP Four Priorities of a Church and Her Members

- ① Continuing steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine - God's doctrine - His **written** Word.
 - Are you a serious student of God's doctrine? (John 7:16-17; 1 Tim 4:13-16; 5:17; 2 Tim 3:10, 16-17; 4:1-4; Titus 2:7; 2 John 9)
- ② Continuing steadfastly in fellowship/koinonia.
 - Do I see it my duty to stimulate my brothers and sisters to holiness and faithfulness? (Hebrews 10:24; 6:10-11)
- 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**.
 - Is the Lord's Supper just a religious activity or is it a reminder that you are one with Christ **and** His Body? Do you long to break bread together again?
- ④ Continuing steadfastly in prayer together.
 - Do you pray? Do you pray with the Body? Do you believe that the Body is to pray together?

- ★ Are these **TOP** priorities for you? Are you **being** Church **to** your brothers and sisters?

THEN

The Feared God Came Upon EVERYONE (Acts 2:43)

- (Hebrews 12:28; Psalm 89:7) We are to serve God with **reverence and fear**.
- The FEAR or AWE is an overwhelming feeling of the closeness of God.
- **AWESOME: an overwhelming feeling of reverence, admiration, fear, etc., produced by that which is grand, sublime, and extremely powerful.**
- Many do not have a genuine awe (fear) of God because they do not know Him. (See handout: The Revealed God)
 - Are you filled with the AWE/FEAR of God? Do you tremble at His Word? (Isaiah 66:2, 5)
 - See Revelation 19:4-6; Daniel 7:9-15.
 - Those who fear God are promised:
 - ★ The pity of the Father. (Psalm 103:13)
 - ★ The mercy of the LORD. (Psalm 103:11, 17-18; Luke 1:50)
 - ★ God's pleasure. (Psalm 147:11; 149:4;)
 - ★ God's ear to their prayers. (Malachi 3:16-17)
 - ★ Spiritual healing and strengthening. (Malachi 4:2)
 - ★ The secret of the LORD. (Psalm 25:14)
 - ★ The eye of the LORD upon them. (Psalm 33:18)
 - ★ The angel of the LORD encamped around them. (Psalm 34:7)
 - ★ No want. (Psalm 34:9)
 - ★ His salvation. (Psalm 85:9)
 - ★ His covenant. (Psalm 111:5; Nehemiah 1:5; Daniel 9:4)

They Witnessed God Working in Their Midst (Acts 2:43)

- The greatest miracle we can encounter is a person truly being born-again, regenerated, converted into a new creature. (John 1:12-13; 3:1-8; James 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:17)
- What is more important to you God meeting your physical needs or the salvation of those who are on their way to hell?

They Experienced Christ's Presence (John 14:15, 21-24)

They Were One Accord (Acts 2:44-46a)

- (v. 46a) "continuing **daily** with one accord"
 - "continued" - PRESENT tense; ACTIVE voice; PARTICIPLE.
 - "one accord"; "one mind" unique to the Greek language. Used 12x; 11x in Acts. Different translations.
 - ὁμοθυμαδόν homothumadon {hom-oth-oo-mad-on'}
 - **"together; unified"** + **"passion; zeal"**
- "With one mind, with one accord, with one passion." A unique Greek word, used 11 of its 12 New Testament occurrences in the Book of Acts, helps us understand the uniqueness of the Christian community.

Homothumadon is a compound of two words meaning to rush along and in unison. The image is almost musical; a number of notes are sounded which, while different, harmonize in pitch and tone. As the instruments of a great concert under the direction of a concert master, so the Holy Spirit blends together the lives of members of Christ's church - His Body.

- (Romans 15:5-7) “. . . that you may with **one mind glorify** the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. **THEREFORE**, receive another **just as** Christ also received us, to the glory of God.”
- The Church is called/commanded to be of ONE MIND! (1 Corinthians 1:10)
 - ▶ Rom 12:16; 1 Cor 2:16; 2 Cor 13:11; Philippians 1:27; 2:1-4; 3:16; 1 Peter 3:8-9.
- (Ephesians 4:1-3) She, the Church, all her members, are to “make every effort”; “endeavor”; “strive”; “being diligent” to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **IT TAKE WORK.**
- The only way for this UNITY to be maintained is for the BODY to do everything together. Unity suffers when members do their own thing!

They Met DAILY in the Temple (Acts 2:46)

- They met daily because they NEEDED each other. They made time for each other DAILY.
- Contrast this with the church at Laodicea - Revelation 3:16-17
- They met daily to pray. (Acts 3:1) Probably twice a day! (Acts 1:14; 2:1, 42)
- But Pastor, the Temple was destroyed in A. D. 70. The Temple was replaced by the Church (people, brothers, sisters) which is the Temple of God. (Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16)
- Christianity is NOT a once a week or even a twice a week thing. Christianity is not something people do on their own. Christianity is all about the BODY of CHRIST doing everything together.
- Christianity, and all that it is in accordance with the **written** Word, is a LIFE STYLE - not a religion. Man has made it a religion and now it looks nothing like what Christ came to establish. Judaism in the first century suffered the same fate! It, Judaism, was there to teach us and we did not learn!
- We are **commanded** to meet together more and more as we see our Lord approaching - NOT less and less. **Hebrews 10:19-25.**

They Met Each Other's Needs (Acts 2:44-46)

- This was not socialism or communism. It was CHURCH.
- This was not forced sharing - its was sincerely caring for the NEEDS of others.
- How did they know of each other's needs? They were of ONE ACCORD and they MET TOGETHER daily. They were involved in each other's lives.
- (1 John 3:13-19) **They loved each other not only in words but also in deeds.** (James 2:15-16)

- (Galatians 6:1-10) They bore each other's burdens. They did not grow weary in doing good. And, **whenever the opportunity presented itself**, they did good to all, **especially to their brothers and sisters in Christ.**
- (1 Timothy 6:11-21) The rich opened their hands wide to daily needs of others. (Deuteronomy 15:7-11; **Proverbs 11:24-25**; Romans 12:8, 13)
- (2 Corinthians 8:1-5) And those who were not rich gave and gave generously - even selling their possession to meet the needs of others.
- (2 Corinthians 8:9) They imitated Christ, their Master.
- (Hebrews 13:16) They did not forget to do good and share, for with such **sacrifices** God is well-pleased. To God, such sacrifices, are a sweet-smelling, acceptable, and well-pleasing. (Philippians 4:18)
- (Ephesians 4:18) They worked in order to give to others.

What Does Church Look Like? It Look Like a BODY.

- By definition: A body does EVERYTHING together!! Parts of a body do not do things on their own. Parts of a body exist to serve the rest of body. Each and every part of the body does their part for the body to achieve whatever the head commands.
- The Church – BODY of Christ:
 - Studies together to grow together. (Acts 2:42)
 - Fellowships together to stir each other up unto good works. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
 - Breaks bread today as one Body. (1 Corinthians 11:17-30; Acts 2:42)
 - Prays together. (Acts 2:42; Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 4:2)
 - In ONE ACCORD. They understand that they must make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (1 Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:46; Romans 15:5-6; Ephesians 4:1-3)
 - Cares for each other not only in word but also in deed. (Acts 2:44-45; 1 John 3:16-18)
 - Sacrifices itself for the benefit of others. (1 John 2:6; 3:16-18; John 15:12-14; Romans 16:4; Philippians 2:17; **2:25-30**)
 - Each member exists to serve all the other members - the whole Body. (Matthew 20:28; Galatians 5:13; 1 Corinthians 9:19; 1 Thess 1:3)
 - Grows together up into the Head, their Lord. (Ephesians 4:16; Acts 2:47)
- ★ If a “church” is not a body it is not a church.

Do We Look Like a New Testament Church?

- Do we want to grow/mature into being a New Testament Church?
- Do we want God to mold us into what He wants us to be?
- Are we willing to put forth the hard work to be a New Testament Church?
- It will take every one doing their share!