



What Does Church Look Like?

(Part 8)

Acts 2:42-47

Galatians 6:1-10

1 Timothy 6:11-21

26 July 2020

Are We Growing?

- Are we growing together as a body? (Ephesians 4:16)
- Are we growing in our understanding of doctrine together? (Eph 5:17; Col 1:9; 2 Peter 3:18)
- Are we more in AWE of God than we were in January? Are we trembling? (Psalm 2:10-12; Philip 2:12-13; Isaiah 66:2, 5; Ezra 9:4-6; Luke 18:13-14)
- Are we over joyed? Are we trembling and rejoicing always? (Psalm 2:10-12; Proverbs 28:14; 23:17; 112:1; Philipp 4:4; 1 Thess 5:16)
- Is our love for each other abounding more and more? (Philippians 1:9; 1 Thess 3:12; 4:1; 4:9-10; 2 Thess 1:3; 1 Peter 1:22)
 - Are we loving each other in deeds and not just words? (1 John 3:16-18)
- Are we overwhelmed at the unsearchable riches that Christ has made available to us? (Ephesians 3:8)
- Are we experiencing the abundant life together? (John 10:10)
- Is our faith, trust in God, growing? (Luke 17:5; Mark 9:24)
- Is our hope groaning louder and louder each day? (Romans 12:12; 8:23-25; Hebrews 9:28; Titus 2:11-14; Lamentation 3:24-26)
- Is our love for each other abounding more and more? (1 Corinthians 13:1-8; 2 Peter 1:5-8; John 13:34-35; 15:12-13, 17; 1 John 4:7-11, 21; 5:1-3)
 - ★ Churches cannot grow without every member doing their part. (Eph 4:16)
 - ★ No Christian can grow apart from doing their part within a local Body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:7-11; 1 Cor 12:12-21)
 - ★ Not to be actively serving a Body of Christ is arrogance, self-centeredness, unloving, and disobedient. God gives us grace to minister to each other so that God will be glorified. (1 Peter 4:10-11)

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.
- 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?

THEN

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

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

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

- ὁμοθυμαδόν homothumadon {hom-oth-oo-mad-on}
- **“together; unified”** + **“passion; zeal”**
- 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 TAKES 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** to pray - not only Sabbaths and feast days - but every day!
- They met daily to study Scripture - the Word of God.
- This was part of Church life all the way up into the 1600s and in some place later.

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

- (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 4:28) They worked in order to give to others.

They Did Not Have a Building (Acts 2:46)

- "breaking bread together" - celebrating the Lord's supper together.
 - Nothing would stop them from:
 - ★ Celebrating their oneness with the Lord and with each other.
 - ☆ *Koinoniaing* one another.
 - ★ Studying the Word together.
 - ☆ Praying together.
 - They did not have ZOOM, Skype, Facebook, or any of the technologies that God has given us.
 - They needed each other and they needed to be with each other.
 - They prioritized their time to be with the brethren.
 - Their homes and their tables were open to their *new family* .

They Were Full of Joy (Acts 2:46)

- They ate together.
- "gladness" is ἀγαλλίασις (agalliasis) and it means "exultation, exuberant joy".
- This is the "inexpressible joy" comes with God's salvation. (1 Peter 1:8; Isaiah 61:10)
- This is the "fullness of joy" that comes with genuine fellowship with God and His people. (1 John 1:1-4)
- This is the "fullness of joy" that comes in obeying Christ's words/ commandments. (John 15:10-11)
- This is a joy that overflows even in the midst of the deepest valleys of life. (Habakkuk 3:17-19; John 16:2; Philippians 4:4)

- This is the joy that accompanies God being in the midst of His people. (Psalm 16:11)
- This is Christ's joy that He prayed to the Father for His people. (John 17:13)

Simplicity of Heart (Acts 2:46)

- "simplicity" is ἀφελότης *aphelotes* {af-el-ot'-ace} and literally it means "singleness; sincerity; simplicity". The word is derived from a root meaning "free of rocks"; "smooth".
- The Church, the people, were sincere, free from malice or prejudice, honest.
- They had a "single" heart. They were united to each other in *agape* love.
- See Paul's exhortation in Philippians 2:1-2.
- They were truly "**knitted**" together as a Body. (Ephesians 4:16)

They Praised God Together (Acts 2:46)

- The goal of their *koininia* was to glorify and exalt God.
- God is praised by His people proclaiming His praises (virtues; goodness) for His mighty works. (1 Peter 2:9)

God Was at Work in Them (Acts 2:47)

- "having favor with all the people".
 - ★ NOTE: Nothing in this passage (vv. 42-47) says anything about their evangelism!! It says everything about how they conducted themselves as Christians.
 - ★ Christ said, "They will know that you are Christians by your love for each others." (John 13:34-35)
- "The Lord added to them daily those who were being saved". (See Acts 5:14)
 - ★ They **did** evangelism! No one can be saved apart from the preaching/ sharing of the Word of God. (Romans 10:13-17)
 - ★ God blessed their **works** of evangelism by performing the greatest miracle - that of people being **truly** being born-again.

Is This the Kind of Church We Want to Become?