

Title: The Model Church
Text: Acts 2:37–47
Theme: Ecclesiology
Prop.: We must be like the model Church
Inter.: What was the Model Church like?

I. The people of the Church

A. They believed

- 1. A ready acceptance of Jesus Christ**
- 2. A repentance of sin**

B. They were baptized

C. They belonged

II. The practice of the Church

A. It's form

- 1. It was continuous**
- 2. It was consistent**

B. It's fashion

- 1. Their teaching**
- 2. Their fellowship**
- 3. Their worship**

III. The presence of the Church

ABF Discussion Exercises

“Much of the Books of Acts is not merely the unfolding saga of the spread of the Church, but of the Maturity of the Church.”

1. How do I become mature?

Read Acts 2:38 and Acts 2:42 out loud to the group.

What are the signs of the Church growing in maturity?

Which of these is the most challenging for you to remain consistent in?

2. Where do I need to grow in maturity?

“No one joined the Church on that day without first coming to Christ by freely and fully accepting Peter’s message by repenting of their sins and by accepting Christ.”

Read 1 John 1:8-10

How is confessing and repenting of sins both a first step and an ongoing step in the maturing process?

How do we interact with those who have made an initial repentance?

3. What is my role in church if I am mature?

“Life became about building their faith, sharing that faith, and about building that community.”

Read Hebrews 10:23-26 then look up the following verses and discuss how you can practically build up the community.

Build up one another – Rom 14:19

Counsel one another - Rom 15:14

Serve one another by showing deference in matters of preference - Gal 5:13

Bear one another’s burdens – Gal 6:2

Be gentle with one another Eph 4:2

Speak truth to one another – Eph 4:25

4. How might our church be immature?

“The test of a “New Testament church” is not just doing the right things; it is more a matter of having the right attitudes – having the right heart – and maintaining right relationships.”

Look up the following verses and give examples of how our Church can mature in these areas.

Being busy in ministry without joy (Acts 2:45-47)

Competing for recognition (Acts 5:1)

Lack of compassion/neglecting a need (Acts 6:1)

Arguing over trivial matters (Acts 15:8-11)

5. What’s the impact on the Church if I stay immature?

“Essentially, “fellowship” means ‘joint participation’ or ‘sharing something in common.’ It is thus a kind of partnership. If we remain immature we will not truly know others or be truly be known by others and therefore will miss out on biblical community.

Read Acts 2:44-46 out loud to the group.

Which of these activities do you need to grow in maturity in?

Look up the following verses and discuss the impact of immaturity on the community:

Instability and lack of confidence in doctrine – (Eph 4:14)

Weakness in times of testing and temptation – (1 Pet 5:8-9)

Resembling the world in your priorities – (1 Cor 3:1-3)

Having to spend time relearning simple truth – (Heb 5:12)

Being hindered in your spiritual walk – (Heb 12:1)

Takeaway:

What is one area of maturity that you are willing to grow in this week?

(just some ideas: baptism, intentional study, repentance, personal fellowship, giving, attending a smallgroup meeting, seeking joy, offering forgiveness, etc...)