

A Shared Life

Acts 2:42-47

PART FIVE

Introduction

12 Crucial Components of a True NT Church

- 1) Spirit-filled conversion among members based upon the proclamation of biblical truth (v37-38).
- 2) Faithful proclamation and teaching the whole content of Scripture (v42a).
- 3) Perseverance in hearing, understanding, accepting, and living by the Word of God (v42a).
- 4) Living and participating in a shared life in Christian community (v42b).
- 5) Practicing the two ordinances given to the Church: *Baptism & Communion* (vv38, 42c).
- 6) Commitment to, and consistency in corporate and individual prayer (v42c).
- 7) Awestruck wonder at what God is doing among the members (v43).
- 8) Unity in community (v44).

9) Unflinching, unrestrained, unbegrudging generosity (v45).

“And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need” (v45).

This is not socialism or communism.

2 Corinthians 8:1-4

Giving should be considered a privilege, not an obligation.

“Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” 2 Corinthians 9:7.

Christians are called to freely give from the heart out of love and compassion in order to help brothers and sisters in need.

Proverbs 19:17

1 John 3:17

Giving freely and generously is one tangible way to express the free generosity of God.

“You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving” Amy Carmichael.

Acts 4:34-35

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God” Hebrews 13:16.

If we were to define the true Christian life in a single word it could be *sacrifice*.

John 15:12-13

This type of sacrificial life requires total surrender of self, a setting aside of our will, and a suppression of our desires.

“he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised” 2 Corinthians 5:15.

Matthew 25:34-40.

‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’ (v40).

“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith” Galatians 6:10.

10) Regularly assembling together for worship and meeting in their homes (v46).

“And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts” (v46).

Hebrews 10:24-25

Consistently meeting together for worship and for fellowship strengthens us against the temptations of the world and the discouragements of the devil.

“Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality” Romans 12:13.

“The Bible knows nothing of solitary religion” John Wesley.

“Show hospitality to one another without grumbling” 1 Peter 4:9.

Corporate worship and communal activity brings an effulgence of joy!

11) Praising God always for all things (v47).

“praising God and having favor with all the people” (v47a).

There is no joy in praising yourself because you’ll be alone in doing it.

Praise comes when glory is rightfully given to God alone.

“I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth” Psalm 34:1.

Mankind was created to praise and worship of God.

Psalm 92:1-2

1 Chronicles 29:11-13

Psalm 145:1-3

“Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name” Hebrews 13:15.

“Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being” Psalm 146:1-2.

12) Growth - spiritual and numerical (v47).

“And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved” (v47b).

When your church is right growth takes place - numerically and spiritually (Ephesians 2:10; John 15:1f).

When the body is functioning properly, the local church is alive and growing!