

Characteristics of the Early Church

Summary

Acts 2:42-47 New International Version (NIV)

The Fellowship of the Believers

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

- ***It Was A Learning Church---***

- * ***Listening to the Apostles As They Taught***
- * ***Looked Forward Instead of Backward***
"Riches of Christ are Inexhaustible"
- * ***Learning Something New Every Day***
"We Should Penetrate More Deeply into the Wisdom and Grace of God."

- ***It Was A Church of Fellowship---***

- * ***The Great Quality of Togetherness***
- * ***A Band of Brothers and Sisters***

- ***It Was A Praying Church---***

- * ***They Knew They Could Not Meet Life in Their Own Strength***
- * ***They Always Went In To God Before They Went Out to the World***
- * ***They Were Able to Meet the Problems of Life Because They Had First Met Him***

- ***It Was A Reverent Church---***
 - * *A Sense of Awe (Fear)*
 - * *Knowing that the Whole Earth Was Created by Him...and is the Temple of God*
- ***It Was a Church Where Things Happened---***
 - * *Signs and Wonders Were There*
 - * *“If We Expect Great Things from God and Attempt Great Things for God...Things Happen!”*
 - * *“Most Things Would Happen If We Believed that God and We Together Could Make Them Happen!”*
 - * *Souls were saved...(v.41)...3000 in one day (wow!!)*
- ***It Was A Sharing Church---***
 - * *They Had An Intense Feeling of Responsibility for Each Other*
 - * *A Real Christian Cannot Bear to Have Too Much When Others Have So Little*
- ***It Was A Worshipping Church---***
 - * *They Never Forgot To Visit God’s House*
 - * *Things Can Happen When We Come Together*
 - * *God’s Spirit Moves Upon His Worshipping People.*
- ***It Was A Happy Church---***
 - * *Gladness Was There*
 - * *A Gloomy Christian Is Contradictory to the Fact*
- ***It Was A Church Whose People Others Could Not Help Liking---***
 - * *Two Greek Words for Good. Agathos simply describes a thing as good. Kalos means that a thing is not only good but looks good; it has a winsome attractiveness about it.*
 - * *Real Christianity is a Lovely Thing*

- * *“There are many people who are good but with their goodness possess a streak of unlovely hardness.”*

***Is Our Church Liked? Do We Like People?
Do We Give of Ourselves To Assure Ourselves
That We Are A Winsome Church?
A Winsome Church Wins People To The Lord.***



The First Church of Jerusalem

- *They Devoted Themselves To The Apostles Teachings 2:42*
 - *They Ate and Fellowshiped (v.42)*
 - *They Were In Awe at God's Wondrous Works (v.43)*
 - *Miracles Were Evident (v. 43)*
 - *They Gave of Their Substance...To The Needy (v.45)*
 - *They Remembered and Reminisc'd Together...Communion (v.46)*
 - *They Worshipped Together (v.46)*
 - *They Prayed and Praised Together (v.42, 47)*
 - *They Rejoiced Together Because Jews Were Being Saved Daily (v. 46-47)*
 - *They Had Everything in Common..Togetherness (v.44)*
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“The Modern Church Today Has Changed the Pattern of the Early Church...But, The Principles Haven't Changed!”

What Do We Mean By That Statement?

The Church of Jesus Christ...The Church Founded on the Principles Handed Down By Jesus Through the Apostles.. Should Still Have The Following in Common Today:

- ***Jesus Died***

- *Jesus Was Buried*
- *Jesus Rose From The Grave*
- *Salvation for Mankind is Through Faith in Jesus...Who is Alive Forevermore!*
- *Men/Women/Boys/Girls...Must Repent of Their Sins To Live Forevermore With Jesus!*

“When the Church of Jesus Christ (believers) realize that we can have our differences (denominations), but we must hold to “keeping the main thing the main thing” i.e. Jesus being the only Way to the Father...then we will see countless people of every race, creed, and nationality come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The world is waiting for the church to “wake-up” and do the work of Jesus Christ in lieu of just saying it.

The Holy Spirit will do His work when we allow Him to work in us and through us.

We need to like each other as Christians before we can take the Word to the world.