

Week 3: What Unites Us

Series: Gratitude

Key Verses: Acts 2:44–47; Romans 3:20–24

Speaker: Dr. Justin Hardcastle

Big Idea: There is so much that divides us - but gratitude can unite us.

The early _____

- The early church came from all walks of life, and consisted of wearing a vast array of stripes.
- Jesus' circle – mostly the societal outcasts, the uneducated, the poorest of the poor, sick, and despised – continued to follow him after his resurrection.
- For the first three centuries, the Christian majority was a mixed bag that mostly belonged to society's lower classes.

The early church practice _____

- Until the Protestant Reformation (the sixteenth century), Christian worship centered around communion, its highest worship act.
- Their gatherings were happy occasions: ([Acts 2:46-47](#)) eating together with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people in mind.

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The Early Church Practiced _____

- The early church understood that focusing on God's grace in our life through corporate gratitude is a strong unifier that places us all on a level playing field.
- **Why gratitude?** Because it is a position before God that reminds us all of what we do not deserve ([Romans 3:20-24](#)).
- The early church understood that the remedy for keeping out this spirit of division was to embrace a spirit of grace.

The Psalmist understood the power of gratitude, which is why he told us entrance into the gates of the Lord was through words of thanksgiving and songs of praise ([Psalm 100:4](#)).

- What if we expressed gratitude for one another?
- What if we said words of thanks, wrote words of thanks, and prayed words of thanks?

What Is God Speaking to me today?:

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