

“A Healthy Church Makes Disciples” - Acts 2:42-47 - 6/28/26 - TBC

Read Acts 2:42-47 - 42 *And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. # 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

Focus on: What is a disciple? How to grow disciples? and Why it matters?

1. What is a disciple?

- a. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary a disciple is: a convinced adherent of a school or individual; one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another.
- b. We have several examples in Scripture: the twelve disciples of Christ, the Apostles, also Noah, Abraham, and Moses.
- c. Not all believers are disciples, but disciples grow the church.

2. How do we grow disciples?

- a. V.42: Teach right doctrine > According to Scripture > This requires us to know what we believe > Believe it and live it!
 - i. Galatians 1:8 *But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.*
- b. V.42: We build relationships with new believers and each other > God made us relational creatures and we have moved away from that creation > Pride hinders relationships!
 - i. Titus 2:1 *But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. 2 Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. 3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, 4 and so train*

the young women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. 6 Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. 7 Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, 8 and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

- c. V.45: We demonstrate service and humility, not just talk about it.
 - i. John 13:3 *Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, 4 rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*
- d. V.46: We model worship and gratitude > Just as Paul said imitate me, we should live with the same mindset. > 1 Corinthians 11:1 *Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

3. Why is it important for the church to grow disciples?

- a. V.47: The Lord added to the church daily > logic would say that this would make A CHURCH bigger, but we know this movement spread throughout the known world in 300 years.
- b. Why did the church grow so fast globally > many disciples, or Jesus followers were “sold out” for Jesus.
 - i. Polycarp is an example. He was a disciple of John and best known for his death. After being arrested for being a Christian, he refused to recant. He reportedly told the emperor, "Eighty and six years I have served Him, and He has done me no wrong," and died with these words, "I bless you, Father, for judging me worthy of this hour, so that in the company of the martyrs I may share the cup of Christ."
- c. It is vital for the church to have believers willing to put in the effort.

Conclusions:

What can I do to lead others in discipleship? What can we do to lead others in discipleship?