

“A Healthy Church is Unified in Everything” - Acts 2:42-47 - 6/21/26 - 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 unity in doctrine, fellowship, purpose and mission.

1. Unity in Doctrine

- a. V.42 - “And they” > talking about these new believers
- b. “Devoted” > zealous or ardent in attachment, loyalty, or affection.
 - i. This wasn't a casual acceptance of teaching, but “all in.”
- c. “The apostles' teaching” > Now we have the canonized Bible, but in the first days of the church it was from the mouth of the apostles > Worth noting that oral tradition was preferred over written.
- d. 2 Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God[b] may be complete, equipped for every good work.*
- e. Sometimes we search for deeper meaning when we need to accept what is plain.

2. Unity in Fellowship

- a. V.42 - “the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” - The early believers lived life together.
- b. V.45-46 - They took care of each other and were concerned about each other. They worshipped and communed together. The focus here is together.
- c. V.46 - “with glad and generous hearts” - A happy and thankful people!
- d. Watch out for bitterness - Hebrews 12: 12 *Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. 14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled (ESV)*
- e. V.47 - “praising God and having favor with all the people.” - Did everyone like the early church? No, it suffered the most persecution. So why this verse; the church was filled with the least desirable people in the world and God was doing great things through them. (v.43)

3. Unity in Purpose

- a. Although the church has suffered through troubles over doctrine, the purpose of the church has remained constant: To lift up Jesus as Savior and share the Gospel!
 - i. Ephesians 4:4 *There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*
- b. Culture and technology have changed the world in irreversible ways, but this same purpose still grounds the Church at the foot of the cross!
- c. Ephesians 6:10 *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places (ESV).*
- d. A universal message from the universal church.

4. Unity in Mission

- a. So why did the early church function the way it did? Or, Why do we function the way we do?
- b. The mission (a specific task with which a person or a group is charged.) is found back in Acts 1:8 *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*
- c. Just like the early church, we are his witnesses. Paul described us as “ambassadors of Christ” in 2 Corinthians 5:20 *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

Conclusions:

1. What am I doing to make the church more unified? Am I creating or growing a root of bitterness?
2. Do we, as a church, have a clear vision and mission? How can we develop both?