

July 11, 2010

*The Bridge Bible Fellowship*

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Acts 2:41-47

### **“The Local Church Part Three: Memories of the Early Church – Part Three”**

A. Who?

B. What?

1. Identity = “they”
2. Commitment = “continually devoting themselves”
3. Doctrine – “the Apostles’ teaching”
4. Fellowship – “the fellowship”
5. Communion – “the breaking of bread”
6. Prayer – lit., “the prayers”
7. Awe of God – “Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe”

#### **8. Confirming Power**

**Wonders** = miracles evoking awe; **Signs** = miracles pointing to a divine truth

- ALWAYS refer to miraculous activity of God that is pointing to something or confirming something that is to be known. Three exceptions where they refer to false signs and wonders done at the end of the age by false Christs (Mt. 24; Mk. 13; or by the “man of sin” in 2 Thess. 2)
- These AUTHENTICATED the message of the Apostles. They were limited to the Apostles and their close colleagues (e.g., Philip in 8:13; cf. 2 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:3, 4).

**WERE taking place** = kept on taking place (Acts 4:30; 5:12; 6:8; 8:6, 13; 14:3; 15:12).

#### **Application:**

- Do we have absolute confidence in the Word of God?
- Do we praise God for the miracles He continually does today? (i.e., saving lost sinners; providentially leading and providing; answering prayers)

#### **9. Sacrificial sharing** - NOT a form of Communism! It is an outgrowth of fellowship (Acts 5:4)!

- Acts 4:32-35 = They did not give up POSSESSION; they gave up OWNERSHIP!
- Followers of Jesus will obey Him and be GENEROUS! (cf. Lk. 3:10-11; 8:1-3; 12:15, 33; 14:33; 18:18-30)
- Rom. 12:13; 1 Cor. 7:29-31; Gal. 6:10; Heb. 10:34; 13:16; James 2:14-17; 1 John 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 4:16-5:10

#### **Application:**

- Is there anything in our lives that we are unwilling to share for the benefit of the body? Why?
- Do we own our possessions or do they own us?
- Does the way we handle material wealth demonstrate that we believe Jesus is coming back?

#### **10. One mindedness**

**One mind** = (Acts 1:14; 2:46; 4:24; 5:12; 7:57; 8:6; 12:20; 15:25; 18:12; 19:29) = “one mind; one accord; by common consent; unanimously”

#### **Application:**

- Do we fight for our own agendas or do we seek only to do the will of God?
- Do we seek God’s Word as our absolute & final authority in all things?
- Do we have biblical support for the things that we believe and hold dear?

### 11. Worship – “continuing in the Temple praising God...house to house”

- FORMALLY in the Temple... INFORMALLY in the setting of houses

#### Application:

- Do we celebrate the glory & grace of God as much at home as we do at the weekly worship services?

### 12. Joy, “gladness” (Acts 5:41; 8:8, 39; 11:23; 12:14; 13:48, 52; 14:17; 15:3, 31; 16:34; 21:17)

**Joy** = “great joy” or “gladness” or “**extreme joy**” (Mt. 5:12; Heb. 1:9; 1 Pet. 1:6, 8; 4:13; Jude 24; Rev. 19:7)

- Joy not only is supposed to characterize the Church, but God makes it **mandatory** that we find joy in serving Him (Ps. 100:2; Phil. 4:4; 2 Chron. 12:1, 2, 5-10; Dt. 28:47-48)

#### Application:

- Is our life characterized by joy? (cf. Gal. 5:22-23) Is our serving characterized by joy?
- Do we ever complain? Why?

### 13. “Sincerity of heart”

**Sincerity of heart** = sincerity; simplicity; singleness of heart. Lit. = “Rock-free” or “smooth” as a field cleared of stones. Nothing to stub your toe or cause you to trip!

#### Application:

- Is there anything in our lives right now that would cause others to stumble if they knew about it?
- Do we find it difficult to open up and let others know that we have struggles? Why or why not?

### 14. Testimony

**Favor** = favor, grace, charity, credit (Prov. 16:7; 1 Tim. 3:7)

#### Application:

- Do we have a good testimony with our family, friends, neighbors, business associates...?
- Is there anything in our lives that would be a stumbling block for an unbeliever? Anything that would make them speak negatively about Jesus Christ?
- Is our life so filled with God’s joy & hope that people are asking what makes us different (1 Peter 3:15)?

### 15. Evangelism

The Lord was adding

To their number

Day by day

Those who were being saved

#### Application:

- Is evangelism a natural outgrowth of our relationship to the Lord Jesus and His Church? Why or why not?
- Are we prepared to clearly share our personal testimony at any time?
- Are we prepared to clearly share the gospel of Jesus with others?
- Are we doing these things regularly? Why or why not?