

July 18, 2010

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

Acts 2:41-47

“The Local Church Part Four: Memories of the Early Church – Part Four”

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
9. Sacrificial sharing - 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?
- What are some practical ideas for informal worship everywhere we go?

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?