

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

THE CHURCH: Established. Empowered. Expanding – Acts 2:42-47 - “The Church- Life Together in Christ” - 10.06.2024

1. Is there anything specific from this message that the Lord has impressed upon your heart? If so, what is it & how do you feel the Lord calling you to respond? As you read Acts 2:36-47, what stands out to you about these verses and how do they relate specifically to being the church?
2. At the beginning of the message I shared how we all are looking for the ideal vacation or ideal fall afternoon. We also take that idea and bring it into the church. How has your expectation of the “ideal church” affected the reality of your experience being the church?
3. In Acts 2:42-47, Luke summarizes the activities and practices of the early church as the Holy Spirit worked in and through the lives of the believers. How is this summary similar and how is it different from your experience in the church? Four items are specifically mentioned that they were devoted (continually persisted in) to: teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer. What does it mean to be continually devoted to these things as a church?
4. The church is called to teach the truths of God’s Word. Read 1 Peter 2:2, 2 Timothy 3:16, Romans 15:4 and discuss, why is the church called to teach God’s Word? How can we increase our hunger and desire to learn from God’s Word?
5. The church is called to have fellowship (sharing life and caring for) with each other. What were some specific ways this took place in the Jerusalem Church? What are some specific ways fellowship takes place in our church today? How can we grow in sharing and caring for each other?
6. The early church held times of formal (prayer at the temple, Lord’s Supper) & informal (eating meals together in their homes & praising God) worship to God. Why do we need to practice both as a church? How can we grow in our dependence on God through prayer as a church?
7. The believers in the Jerusalem Church boldly proclaimed Christ. What would help us to grow in our ability to proclaim Christ courageously and boldly?
8. Below are the main points from the sermon. Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, if so, how?

The Church is Life Together in Christ

Teaching the Truths of God's Word

- Learning the Truths of God's Word

Fellowship with other believers

- Being a sharing and caring community

Worshiping the Lord through Breaking Bread & Prayer

- Remembering Jesus' work for us & recognizing our need for Him

Boldly proclaiming Jesus to the World

- Salvation is the work of God