

What Does a Spirit-filled Church Look Like? – Acts 2:42-47

Why are the chairs arranged the way they are this morning?

I will ask this same question at the end of the sermon, and by then hopefully we will all know the answer!

Acts 2:42-47 shows how the early church responded to being filled with the Holy Spirit & **their response has laid a framework for how “church” is done!**

Remember, a church is not a building or a service time on Sunday mornings. The Church is the family of God, the people of faith, the body of Christ.

All that we do together is what it means to “do church”!

This passage in Acts 2 lays out what “doing church” ought to look like!

We all know that the Holy Spirit produces fruit in an individual’s life, but the Holy Spirit also produces fruit in the life of a church! This is true, no matter the age - **a Spirit-filled church will be recognized by its fruits!**

This passage lays out 5 distinguishable fruits of a Spirit-filled Church!

- The tangibles of how they get lived out may change, but it is the continual presence of these 5 fruits that make a church a truly Spirit-filled church!

1) They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teachings!

They could have devoted themselves to many other things, but the 1st & most important fruit of a Spirit-filled church is that the people of God should never forsake the teachings of God!

Reading, learning & applying the Scriptures is what sets us apart in this world! **We believe in a standard of truth, and we base our lives on it!**

The early church modeled this well for all of us to follow!

The teachings of the apostles’ define what we believe & how we live!

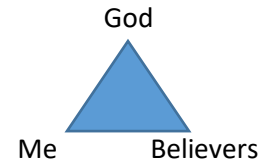
How can we, as a church, be more devoted to the apostles’ teachings?

2) They devoted themselves to the fellowship of believers!

Fellowship (Gk. Koinonia) was a word born out of Pentecost! It meant to “share in”, “be in communion with”, “participate together”. This was/is what the church is truly called to be – a fellowship!

We were created in the image of God, and God is a being in community –Father, Son, & Holy Spirit, therefore **we were born to be in community!**

What does this fellowship/community look like? A triangle!



- As we are connected to, & have fellowship with God, we’ll also be connected to other believers

- As we are in fellowship with other believers, we are also connected to, & in fellowship with God!

*What are the ties that bind you together to the people that you are closest to in your life? **Now consider what we share together in Christ!***

How can we, as a church, better see the bond that we have in Christ and enjoy the beauty of being a people in community, practicing fellowship?

3) They devoted themselves to expressing love towards one another!

They broke bread together. They prayed together. They opened their homes to each other. They met the needs of those within the fellowship – even if it meant the selling of their own possessions!

They truly expressed love & affection for one another! This was not coerced, this was not a requirement, this was simply a people who had received great love & blessing, and then allowed it to overflow to others

How can we be a Spirit-filled church that expresses love like this? What are some practical ways we can live this out today? A 3-fold challenge

4) They devoted themselves to worship!

Gathering for corporate worship was not an “If we have time” kind of thing, worshipping together was of greatest priority to them! Vs. 46.

How can we be known as a church that makes worship our priority?

5) They devoted themselves to sharing the gospel of Christ w/ others!

How do we know that? Because **“the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”**

Proclamation is the means by which God does His work of salvation!

*So why are the chairs set up this way? **Because we are a Spirit-filled church!***

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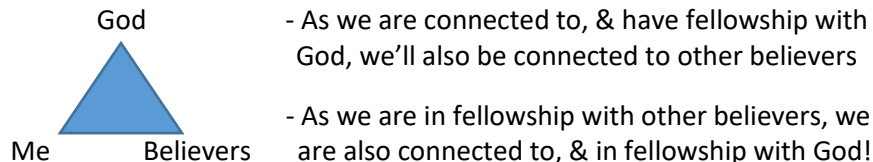
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