

THE CHURCH THAT GROWS

v42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. v43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. v44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. v45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. v46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, v47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47

THE CHURCH THAT GROWS

1. IS A CHURCH THAT HAS "STICKABILITY" - *v42 They devoted themselves.*

The Greek word is **proskartereo** and MEANS:

1. to be earnest towards something,
2. to persevere, be constantly diligent
3. to attend assiduously all the exercises,
4. to adhere closely to someone as a servant

2. IS A CHURCH THAT HAS KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH - *v42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching.*

The early church recognised leaders who had been close to Jesus, as well as the teachings of JESUS.

3. IS A CHURCH THAT IS A TEAM - *v42 They devoted themselves to ... the fellowship.... v44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. v46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.*

The word "FELLOWSHIP" comes from the Greek word "KOINOS", from which we get our English word "COMMON". It is one of the reasons why we call "The Lord's Supper" – "Communion".

Every part of the team is important if a team is going to be successful.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. v5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. v6 There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. v7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

4. IS A CHURCH THAT IS COMMITTED TO THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES - *v42 - They devoted themselves to ... the breaking of bread and to prayer. ... v46 Every day They broke bread in their homes and ate together...*

Why have the CORPORATE CHURCH PRACTICES become something that is OPTIONAL rather than CRITICAL.

5. IS A CHURCH THAT CARES - *v44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. v45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.*

This practice faded as the numbers grew, because soon people joined the church only to get something out of the organisation. Like Ananias and his wife Sapphira. HOWEVER, there is great beauty in a church that cares.

6. IS A CHURCH THAT KNOWS THE HOLY GOD - *v43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ... v47 praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people.*

The word "AWE" is the Greek word "PHOBOS" from which we get our English word "FEAR". DO WE LIVE IN HOLY REVERENCE?

7. IS A CHURCH THAT RESTS - *v47 And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

Jesus said "I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH."

God is sovereign. *1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*