

(Message #5 of **The Church: A Divine Design**)

The Attitude of the Church

Acts 2: 44-47

As I have considered the church as of late, I have thought quite a bit about the blessings that I enjoy, especially in regard to family. I have no doubt that I have been saved; I am part of the family of God. I have been blessed with a wonderful family of my own. I have also been blessed to become a part of this wonderful church family. There are a lot of places that God could have sent me, but He has placed me here and I am thankful for that. I love the church that God has allowed me to pastor and be a part of.

As we consider the blessings that God has given us, I want us to examine our hearts today. There is no doubt that we are blessed. There are a lot of churches who would love to have what we possess.

The verses that we've read give us insight into the makeup of the early church. This was a very exciting time in the lives of those who made up the church. The early believers had one thing, and one thing only on their minds, and that was to serve the Lord in such a way that would honor Him and reach those who had not yet come to know the Lord.

We are a blessed people, but as I look at the characteristics of the early church, I wonder if we are where we should be. Have we done all we can to be what the Lord desires of us? Is there anything we could do to improve? I want to consider the basic **truths** of the text as we think on: **The Attitude of the Church.**

I. The Fellowship of the Church (44a) – And all that believed were together. We find that the early believers had all come together. This wasn't just a select few who had met for worship; **all** the people had come together. There was a great sense of fellowship among all the believers. There weren't mini-congregations within the body; they all stood together and fellowshiped together.

▪ If we are to be all that we could be, we must all come together. We all share a common bond, saving grace in the Lord. We are all going to spend an eternity in heaven together. Why not learn to fellowship together in this life? Genuine fellowship within the church requires more than just gathering under the same roof. We must all come together with a desire to be together.

▪ The church will never prosper and be all that it can and should be without unity and fellowship among the believers. We must unite together in a spirit of unity and love. You might argue that there are a few folks that I just can't agree with or get along with. **1 Jn.3:14 - We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.** A love for one another confirms our salvation. We cannot love God if we don't love each other. **1 Jn.4:20 - If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom**

he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? Fellowship is essential to being all that we could be for the Lord!

I. The Fellowship of the Church (44a)

II. The Focus of the Church (44b) – And had all things common. They were a group of believers who not only shared a close fellowship, but a common focus. The early church shared everything they had. They all shared of their possessions, but more importantly they shared a desire for the things of God. When they came together for worship there was a common desire to serve the Lord in a way that pleased Him. They were willing to sacrifice of themselves for the good of the church. They didn't deal with the debates and disputes of who is where or doing what.

- If we are to become what we need to be, we must all share a common focus. We must all agree on why we are here. We have not come to please ourselves, but to serve the Lord. We cannot have a “me” and “mine” mentality. It isn't about us; it is all about Him! Jesus is the reason we have come today. We must make Him the focus and the desire of our hearts.
- Many churches never prosper because they can never agree on what it is that they need to accomplish. Do you ever consider why we are here? What have we met for today? What is our purpose for being here?
- Can you imagine what this small congregation could achieve if we had all things in common? I would love to see that happen before I die. I would love to come to the house of God knowing that everyone shared a common goal. I would love for us to get beyond ourselves and see the big picture. We have a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people, but we must come together to achieve it!

III. The Faith of the Church (45) – And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. There is much that could be said about the deeds of the early church. These were a people who gave sacrificially for the good of others. The people sold their personal possessions and brought the proceeds to the church so that it might be distributed among those who were less fortunate. They were more concerned about the needs of others than they were for themselves.

- As I considered this great act, I became aware of the faith that it took for these to do such a thing. They had come to the place in their spiritual lives that they were willing to depend solely upon the Lord to meet their needs. These were people of faith. They had no way of knowing what their future held, but they were willing to trust God.
- Now, I am in no way advocating that you ought to sell everything you own and put the money in the offering plate, but I am saying that we need to learn to trust the Lord and live by faith. Many times we miss our blessings because we lack the faith to be obedient unto the Lord. If we can't see how it's possible, we assume it cannot happen.

- If we are to become what the Lord desires of us, we must learn to trust the Lord and follow Him. Many times we haven't got enough faith to believe that God will do what He said He would do. I have no doubt that God wants to do great things for us; we must have faith!

- We are facing some tough economic times, but the church will prevail. Our ministry has grown; we have branched out into different areas. We cannot cut back or delay the work of God simply because we can't see how it will work out. We must press forward in the work that we've been called to do and depend on the Lord to supply the need! [Phil.4:19 - But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.](#) Do you believe the Lord will meet our needs? Do you believe He wants us to prosper for Him? Let's start living as if we believe it and trust in Him.

I. The Fellowship of the Church (44a)

II. The Focus of the Church (44b)

III. The Faith of the Church (45)

IV. The Fervency of the Church (46-47a) – The early church possessed a zeal and fervency for the Lord that was evident by the lives they lived.

A. Their Attendance (46a) – [And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart.](#) They continued [daily](#) with one accord in the [temple](#). Did you see where they were and when? This crowd couldn't get enough of the Lord. Every day they made their way to the house of God. There were things available at the temple that the world didn't offer. They were being fed spiritually, growing and maturing in the Lord. They had a hunger for the house of God that couldn't be satisfied.

- Oh how we need that in our day. We need a church body that is hungry for the Lord. We need those who are committed to making their way to the services and finding their place among God's people.

- We are living in difficult times. I need all the church I can get. I need all the help and instruction that is available. This world isn't offering what the church is. You will not find what you get here among the world. We need to do all we can to be at the house of God at every possible opportunity! Make it a priority to attend the house of God!

B. Their Attitude (46b) – If there wasn't preaching at the church house, they were fellowshiping with one another. Their lives were consumed with church activities. I know we have to work and do other things, but there is nothing better than building your life around the church and God's people.

- But I noticed their attitude as well. They were filled with gladness and singleness of heart. This wasn't a disgruntled group. They weren't complaining about every little thing. They were just happy to be around fellow believers and were content with what they had.
- We certainly need to find that in our day. I love the church; there is nothing like it in the world, but you don't have to be around church people long before you start hearing someone complain. Listen, we are too blessed to be stressed. We have been given far more than we deserve. We ought to rejoice that God has spared our souls from hell. We have a beautiful place that we can come and worship. There are those of like faith that we can fellowship with. We just need to refocus our attention and develop a godly attitude.

C. Their Affection (47a) – Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. They simply loved the Lord. He had provided for their salvation and they couldn't help but praise the Lord. If you are saved, I know that you love the Lord, but we need to rediscover that affection. We need to praise Him like He deserves. We need to develop a passion for the Lord.

- This affection wasn't reserved for the Lord only. They had favor with all people. There is that word **all** again. They were not a people who excluded others. They loved everyone. The word **favor** is an interesting word. It means, "*that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech; good will, loving-kindness.*"
- They were literally glad to see one another. They greeted each other with grace and joy. The love that they held for fellow believers was openly displayed. Ill will and discord will not survive where love is present. Would you like to see Fellowship transformed for the glory of God? It can happen if we would determine that we were going to love Jesus and others as we should.

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III. The Faith of the Church (45)

IV. The Fervency of the Church (46-47a)

V. The Fruit of the Church (47b) – It would be the wrong interpretation to assume that the early church was perfect. It was made up of those who lived in the flesh, but it was a church that desired to live as God would have them to. They were not perfect, but God blessed their efforts. He added to the church daily such as should be saved. The people were daily living for the Lord and they were daily seeing souls saved.

- God has not changed. He is well able to do the same for us. Is there anything more critical for the church than to reach a lost and dying world? That is likely the weakest aspect of the majority of churches in our day. We gather together, but we are not seeing much fruit.
- I don't know about you, but it thrills me to see a lost sinner come to Christ in salvation. We are here to be a witness unto the world. God wants to bless us and save lost souls. There is no reason for this, or any other church, to exist without seeing souls saved.
- The early church was made up of ordinary people like you and me. They were just committed to living for God and He blessed them because of it. Have you got lost family and friends that you would like to see saved? Sure, we all do. What can we do to achieve their salvation? If we would follow the pattern that we have looked at today, I have no doubt that Fellowship would begin to see much fruit for the Lord. God will bless us if we will conform to His ways.

Has God spoken to your heart today? Is there a need in your life? Christian are you living the life that God would have you to? Do we want God to move among us so that we can prosper for Him?

The first step in achieving our goal is to be honest with God. If there is a need in your life, why not admit it and come right now and seek the Lord's help?