First Century Church (3-21-1986)

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INTRODUCTION

- Let us speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent. Let us do Bible things in Bible ways, that is not outworn.
- I sometimes wonder if perhaps we have overlooked another part of restoring New Testament Christianity.
- Restoring New Testament Christianity, though, means more than just being here on Sunday. The character and attitude of first century Christians need to be stressed in our own generation of time.

1 Disciples Who Were Wholehearted

Acts 4:32

- They were disciples who were wholehearted. That one word fits the attitude of these Christians.
- The multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul.
- It wasn't just a pastime or a part time. It wasn't just the sort of on the outer fringes of their life, but serving Christ was the whole of their life.

2 Disciples Who Opposed Error

Revelation 2:2; Galatians 1:6–8

- They were disciples who opposed error. They knew what they believed.
- Preach any other gospel than that which we preached unto you, let him be accursed.
- It makes a difference what we believe. And therefore, if it makes a difference, know why you believe what you believe and stand firm for it.

3 Their Lives Were Changed

1 Thessalonians 1:9; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11

- Those first century Christians were men and women who were converted. And that means they were changed.
- How you turn to God from idols to serve the living and true God.
- And such were some of you. But ye are washed. But ye're sanctified. But ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus.
- We need to go to all. That's what the early Christians did, wasn't it? To all, because anyone can be changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

4 Men and Women Who Had One Faith

Ephesians 4:3–5; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 1:27

- Those first century Christians were men and women who had one faith. And they worked to keep the unity of that faith.

- There is one body and one spirit... One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.
- If brethren are dividing over personality problems, then something's wrong with their faith.
- Count others better than self. You put others ahead of yourself.

5 They Sought Converts

Acts 6:7

- Those first century Christians sought converts. They were a group of people who were busy teaching and seeking others to obey the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- When the disciples were scattered... they went everywhere preaching the word.
- The word of God increased, and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly.

6 An Ideal Picture, Not the Whole Story

Acts 5:29; Acts 15:1–2; Luke 14:33

- To be wholehearted also will sometimes mean that we are going to be extremist in the eyes of the world. We're going to be sacrificial.
- We ought to obey God rather than man.
- They opposed error because they knew what they believed and why they believed it, but they also had some problems.
- What does God say about it? That's their question.
- While the gospel had the power to change their lives, the real truth is it also upset former ties.
- There's a difference between the convert who is zealously involved and the member who just sits on the pew.

MY NOTES