# Learning From The First Century Church

**Greg Kline** · Acts 4:32–35

## INTRODUCTION

- When we say we want to be like the New Testament church, that we think beyond just the pattern of organization, which is critical.
- When we look at the New Testament church, I want us to learn from them to be like them in every way.
- Let's see if perhaps we can be challenged this morning to be like the first century church.

## 1 They Served Their God With Their Whole Heart

**Acts 4:32–35; Acts 4:19–21**

- The full number of those who believed were of one heart and one soul. And no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.
- Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.
- If you note what compelled Peter and John, it was not success, it was God.
- There's a word for what keeps us from doing more because of a fear of something else or not wanting to lose something. That word is sacrifice.
- A true sacrifice is when you give up something which costs you.

## 2 They Opposed Error at Just About Every Turn

**Revelation 2:2–3; Galatians 1:6–10; Acts 15:1–6**

- I know your works, your toil, and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and have found them to be false.
- For am I now seeking the approval of man or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.
- We also need to be willing to oppose error and realize that comes with facing problems head on. That does not mean creating problems. That does not mean picking fights.
- We cannot cower away from teaching truth. That does not mean bullying.

## 3 Many of Them Had Greatly Changed Their Life

**1 Thessalonians 1:6–10; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; Matthew 10:34–37**

- How you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his son from heaven.
- To be like the first century church means my life will be drastically different if I was not a Christian.
- Am I in this for God? Or am I in this because of what it does for me?
- And such were some of you. But you were washed. You were sanctified. You were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

- If the Thessalonians could turn, if the Corinthians could turn, if the Ephesians could turn, if the Macedonians can turn, anybody can accept the gift of God.

## 4 They Had One Faith

**Ephesians 4:4–6; 1 John 4:1–3**

- They had one faith. Yet they did have to choose between similar doctrines.
- There is one body and one spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.
- Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God. For many false prophets have gone out into the world.
- Do I examine the word? Do I seek to know what is truth? If I'm like members of the first century church, I again not only can and should, but must.

## 5 The First Century Church Sought Converts, Not Just Members

**Acts 8:1–4; John 6:26; John 6:60–66**

- Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.
- This is a powerful example that all of us need to be involved in this teaching.
- There's nothing that South Bumby can say or do besides teach the words of Christ that will change anyone's life.
- You are seeking me not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.
- It is those who trust in Jesus and follow after him, believing in God with all their heart and soul.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **What is the lesson from the first century church? That God always comes first. We must be uncompromising. We must be sacrificial. We must be focused on serving and pleasing him.**

MY NOTES