The Local Church: Acts 2

Greg Kline · Acts 2:42–47

INTRODUCTION

- Peter had the remedy for their solution of sin, which was to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins in the name of Jesus, the crucified Christ.
- I want to note at the end of Acts chapter 2 some passages we kind of read over and treat as some sort of optional filler backstory.
- That really is an important part of becoming what we might call a model church.

1 Devoted to Sound Teaching

Acts 2:42; Ephesians 4:11–16

- The local church that is in God's image and the image that Christ meant and intended for the church to have means that we will, in fact, be devoted to sound teaching.
- That includes understanding first and foremost who Jesus is and what God sends him to do.
- It needs to completely center around, not how our worship is organized or what we do, but first and foremost about Jesus, the crucified and resurrected Savior.
- He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints, for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.
- Sound teaching is essential to being pleasing to God and growing together.

2 Fellowship With the Brethren

Acts 2:43–45; Philippians 2:1–6

- Fellowship is a relationship of inner unity among believers that expresses itself in outer co-participation with Christ and one another in accomplishing God's will on earth.
- It's not just doing things with people who are Christians, but doing things with Christians to what? Advance the cause of Christ.
- Because within Christ, they understood that they were a family. They were linked together by Jesus.
- Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.
- This type of fellowship cannot and does not happen just by meeting together once or twice a week.
- This is a necessary part of the church, just as necessary as sound doctrine. If we won't work together, we're rejecting God's plan.

3 Devoted to the Prayers

Acts 2:42; James 5:13–17

- This is where, just like in the previous point of fellowship, we have to know one another.

- The only way that we can pray for one another and truly be the example of the church that Jesus demands we be is if we care and love each other enough to get to know one another.
- It takes somebody who's willing to share their burden and somebody to bear the other's burden as well.
- Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed.
- That means I go out of my comfort zone to ask people, how are they doing? What can I pray for?

4 Together, Breaking Bread in Their Homes

Acts 2:44–46; Proverbs 27:17

- And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts.
- This text is not saying we are in sin if we don't go to somebody's house every single day.
- If we are not together, then we are apart.
- He made it this way because he knows his creation. He knows we need each other.
- I have to reach out to help. And I have to reach up, raising my hand, saying, you know what? I need help too.
- How are we going to share that we have a need? We have to meet together.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **We need to be like Jesus. We need to humble ourselves. We need to think more of others, and we need to be of unity in spirit and mind and of love for Christ.**

MY NOTES