

February 12, 2023

Acts 2:42-47

“Devoted”

## PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Many signs and wonders were being performed by the apostles. These were done to authenticate their special/limited office of apostles and their message. Jesus did them to authenticate His Messiahship.

This fellowship is *koinōnia* in type. They were a gathered community with a strong emphasis on their unity. This unity extended to the point of holding everything in common. They were selling their goods for the benefit of others whenever a need arose. This was not an idea of community ownership, the imperfect tense is used indicating that this was a recurrent, continuing practice: their practice was to sell their property and goods and apportion the proceeds wherever a need arose. This is in keeping with [Deuteronomy 15:4f](#) that speaks of doing this so that there be no poor among you. Gleaned from *John B. Polhill*

Preach the Word rightly divided, see [II Timothy 2:15](#). [Hosea 4:6](#) warns, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” The preaching of sound doctrine is invaluable, irreplaceable, vital, to the welfare of every church.

Fellowship is an essential part of a healthy church, it is the spiritual duty of believers to stimulate each other to holiness and faithfulness [Hebrews 10:24-25](#). For a Christian to participate in the life of the local church is a blessing to the person and to others!

A well grounded church is eager to participate in the duty of prayer. To pray without ceasing is to relentlessly pursue God for help. As people observed their conduct, joy, and fellowship people were attracted to the church and God was adding. The life of a healthy church is contagious. Gleaned from *John MacArthur*

The make up of this first church was one that knew the importance of consisting of only saved people, people who were devoted to studying God’s Word, sharing in fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. If we strive to do the same our church will be a church that the Lord is pleased with.

With the passing of the apostolic age, and the completion of the canon of Scripture, the need for such confirming signs and wonders ended. See [Hebrews 1:1-3](#).

### Application:

Our country every so often will have the president give a state of the union speech. The intention is to inform the people of where the country has come from and the intended direction in which it desires to go and how we are doing in our efforts. The guidelines are determined by the constitution which starts out, “We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.” These words were written on parchment by Jacob Shallus the penman of the original copy of the United States Constitution and is on display in the Rotunda at the National Archives Museum.

In [Acts 2:42-47](#) we are given a description of the everyday life of those who made up the first church ever by God’s design there in Jerusalem. If we will pause from time to time to evaluate the health and purpose of the church by these standards, we will be able to make accurate assessments of how we are doing. Are we fulfilling the purpose the Lord has for His church?

The guidelines are fantastic, they start out, they were **devoted** to the Kingdom of God. Let’s check our church against some of these qualities. Is there a firm devotion to the preaching and study of the Bible? Are we a church that loves getting together as family? In good times and bad, can the body of believers be counted on to stand for the truths of God’s Word? Is there a time when we all come together to partake of the Lord’s Supper in humble remembrance of all that was done for us by the Lord Jesus? Are we a body of believers that can be counted on to pray for one another in the good times and the bad? Are we a church that will give sacrificially to help those in the church and even outside of the church as needs arise? Do we get together for a good old meal from time to time? Is the church body known for being a kind, generous and joyful group? Are we a group of people known for praising the Lord for all he has done? Are we known for our sincerity of heart to reach the lost? Are we seeing people saved, baptized, and disciplined through the ministry of this church? As you take a little time to evaluate the “state of our church” I think that we can all agree that there is always room for improvement but at the same time I hope that you are all encouraged to see how the Lord is at work in our midst!

Think about these words of an old hymn, “To God be the glory, great things He hath done, So loved He the world that He gave us His Son, Who yielded His life our redemption to win, And opened the life-gate that all may go in. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice; Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice; Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son, And give Him the glory; great things He hath done.”

Praise The Lord!