

Anatomy of a Healthy Church

Acts 2:42-47

42 They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers. 43 Everyone around was in awe — all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! 44 And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. 45 They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met. 46 They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, 47 as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

I. The church practiced the principle of **intentionality**. (v. 42)

They ***committed*** themselves to the ***teaching*** of the apostles, the ***life together***, the common meal, and the ***prayers***.

1. They were committed to the **Truth** of the Word (v.42a)

“They ***committed*** themselves to the ***teaching*** of the apostles”

2. They were committed to the **teamwork** of the body (v.42b)

“They ***committed*** themselves to... the life together”

3. They were committed to the **table** of the Lord.

“They ***committed*** themselves to... the common meal,”

4. They were committed to **talking** to God (v.42c)

“They ***committed*** themselves to ...prayer.”

II. The church practiced the principle of **authenticity**. (v. 43)

Everyone around was in ***awe*** — all those ***wonders*** and ***signs*** done through the ***apostles!***

1. Authenticity requires the **presence** of God. (John 15:5)

“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for ***apart from Me you can do nothing.***”

2. Authenticity requires the **power** of God. (Acts 4:33)

With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.

3. Authenticity requires the **people** of God. (John 13:35)

By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

III. The church practiced the principle of **cooperation**. (V.44-45)

And all the believers lived in a wonderful **harmony**, holding everything in **common**. They **sold** whatever they owned and **pooled** their resources so that each person's **need was met**.

1. They **stuck** with one another. (v.44a)

"And all the believers lived in a wonderful **harmony**..."

2. They **shared** with one another. (v.44b)

"...holding everything in **common**."

3. They **sacrificed** for one another. (v.45)

"They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources..."

4. They **served** one another. (v.45)

"...so that each person's need was met."

IV. The church practiced the principle of **attraction**. (V. 46-47)

Every day their number grew as **God added** those who were saved.

1. People are attracted to consistent **participation**. (v.46a)

They followed a **daily discipline of worship** in the Temple followed by meals at home

2. People are attracted to exuberant **celebration** (v.46b)

Every meal was a **celebration**, exuberant and joyful, as they **praised God**. People in general liked what they saw.

3. People are attracted to life-changing **transformation**. (v.47)

Every day their number grew as **God added** those who were saved.

DON'T GO TO CHURCH, BE THE CHURCH!