

Acts 2 - For a parent, grandparent, teaching your children to share is one of the most difficult -

Finding [Nemo Clip](#)

- Parents, do you identify with that clip – Mine, Mine, Mine...
- Teaching kids to share can be one of the most difficult and challenging aspects of parent

Robby Gallaty (Long Hollow) said, "The Gospel came to you because it was headed somewhere else"

- We have been given **resources** for the building up of the body of Christ so that we can reach people with the Gospel of Christ for glory of Christ!

As we continue our Unstoppable Force Series

- We are examining how the church is to be a **people** of **hope** for the world in darkness
- The Last couple of weeks, we have unpacked our **Values** – Foundational Beliefs / guiding principles that drive culture and behavior
- This Series is not only **Foundational** and to who we are as a church family, but it is **Fundamental** to who we will become moving forward.
- If you have missed any of the last sermons in this series, I would encourage you to watch those on-line.

This is what we believe the Bible...As a Christ Follower I must...

ABIDE (John 15:5) "It is impossible to follow Jesus without abiding in Him."

CONNECT (Rom. 12:5) "God has designed His Church as a body. In order to follow Jesus, I must be engaged in His family."

TODAY I WANT US TO LOOK AT THE 3RD VALUE -

SHARE (2 Tim. 2:2; Mt. 5:13-15) "A true follower of Christ cannot hoard their faith, they are compelled to share and multiply it in others."

In light of our mission, I want you to see three characteristics of a Spirit Filled Church

- What we see in this early congregation express three key relationships that we have as followers of Christ.
- This is just after Peter's sermon in Jerusalem –

Remember Jesus has been crucified, buried, risen again. He ascended to the Father telling the disciples to wait for the Spirit who will empower them to accomplish the mission...

Acts 2:40 – ⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." ⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

Acts 2:46 - ⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

The early church was...

Devoted To the Word – Acts 2:42

Acts 2:42 – “And they continued steadfastly (they devoted themselves to) ... the apostles’ doctrine”

Acts 2:46 - So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart

These early disciples were people of the Word

- They met continually – in the Temple to Worship (large group) – They met regularly in houses to study the word (small group) We believe very strongly in the power of groups
 - **Acts 17:11** - It was said of the believers at Berea, “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.”
 - You know what that means...They went home after hearing the Word and studied the passage, why? To verify what was said.
 - In Nehemiah 8:8 as Ezra – Read the law, priests and Levites “...gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the law that was just read.
 - Several times throughout Jesus ministry you see him preaching / teaching the crowds, then further explaining the truth to his followers

ABIDE (John 15:5) “It is impossible to follow Jesus without abiding in Him.”

- **John 15:5** - “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.
- **John 8:31-32** - Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Can that be said of us, that we are people of the Word – Fully Devoted to the Word of God?

Not only should we be devoted to the Word – We must be ...

Devoted To One Another – Acts 2:42, 44-45

Acts 2:42,44-45 - They devoted themselves to... “fellowship...44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

The Greek word used here in Acts 2:42 is koinonia – we’ll see this throughout the NT – deep closeness - It is seen in their deep care for one another

This community of believers cared deeply for one another. They loved one another; they sacrificed for one another; they gave freely to one another as needs arose.

- Pastor Tony Merida said of this passage. (These followers of Christ) were spiritually united as “believers,” and this spiritual union worked itself out into practical acts of love and support.
- Jesus said this kind of deep love and care for one another was a mark of his disciples
- Col. 3:12-14 - Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; ***even as*** Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

These are things that characterized the early church – They lives this out

Rom. 12:10 - Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; (Some translations say, "Be devoted to one another...")

1 Peter 4:8-10 - And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."⁹ Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Nearly 50 times in the NT, you find an action followed by the phrase "one Another"

- We love by living out the "one-another's" – The Litmus test of our love for God is our love for our neighbor
- According to Scripture, the church is a community of Christians who love one another, care for one another, receive, honor, serve, instruct, forgive, and motivate, encourages one another, comforts one another, prays for one another, gives to one another, rejoice with one another, weep with one another, hurt with one another, and restore one another.

Tertullian (AD 160-220) reported that the Roman world was saying of the Christians, "Look how they love one another!"

CONNECT (Rom. 12:5) "God has designed His Church as a body. In order to follow Jesus, I must be engaged in His family."

We Gather in Large Groups and Small Groups for Mutual Edification and Encouragement

Before we move to next point, let me share the new memory verse:

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 - "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

The early church was devoted to the Word, and to One Another, but they were...

Devoted To the Mission – Acts 2:47

Acts 2:47 - And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

SHARE (2 Tim. 2:2; Mt. 5:13-15) "A true follower of Christ cannot hoard their faith, they are compelled to share and multiply it in others."

Acts 8:2-4 - And there arose on that day a **great persecution** against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles...⁴ Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word

- The growth of the church and the spread of the Gospel was not primarily the result of the apostles' witness – It was not the Pro's; it was the Joe's
- Everywhere these believers went, they carried the renewal and hope that gospel brings.

We share in the Mission because...

Jesus's Command - His Final Word – Our First Work

- **Mt. 28:18-20** – And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- **Mk. 16:15** - And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.
- **Luke 24:47** - that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
- **John 20:21** - As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."
- **Acts 1:8** - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

DL Moody once said, "If I know my own heart today, I would rather die than live as I once did, a nominal Christian and not used by God in building up His kingdom!"

We share in the Mission because...**Jesus's Command – but also because it is ...**

Our Identity (This is who we are as believers, who we are as Christ followers)

We are called to be Salt and Light – Matthew 5:13-16

- Matthew 5:13-16 - "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

We are Called to Be Ambassadors for Christ

- 2Corinthians 5:20 - Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.
- An Ambassador is someone is an accredited diplomat sent by a country as its official representative to a foreign country.

We are Called to be Fishers of Men

- Jesus said, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." (Mark 1:17)
 - to Follow is the Fish – If you are not fishing, you may not be following
 - Can you name one person who is living for Christ today because of you?
- I don't mean you saved them, but God used you to bring them to faith

We are Called to Be Witnesses – Acts 1:8

- **Acts 1:8** - But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Can you name one person who has your spiritual DNA – who prays like you, shares faith

Acts 2:46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

- The last sentence of that verse is important: "And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved."

- In the early church, these believers became connected in community, and that connection led **to a shared mission**. Notice that the mission was simply the overflow of community.
- You see, the only way we can accomplish God's global mission—which He's entrusted to us—is together. That's why God gave this commission to His church.

"The Great Commission is too big for any organization to do alone and too important for us not to try to do together."

That is why we must Share our time, talents, and resources to build up the body to reach people for Jesus

The #1 Reason we Share in the Mission – For the Glory of Jesus' Name

Habakkuk 2:14 - For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD,
As the waters cover the sea.

Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Abide Brings Glory

John 8:31 - Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

John 15:8 - We bear fruit as we abide in Christ and His word, John 15:5-7, John 15:8 says, "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."

Connect Brings Glory

1 Peter 4:11 - If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Share Brings Glory to God

Matthew 5:16 - Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Jesus Valued His Relationship with the Father, With People, with the Lost World – If he did, as His Followers, we should!

John 13:34–35: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you [Abide], that you also love one another [Connect]. By this all men will know [Share] that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

- Vance Pitman, (Unburdened) It's His plan that people outside the church see our love for and devotion to one another and be drawn to Jesus.
- Do you see how He powerfully wove all three relationships together? It's out of the overflow of our love relationship with Him that God manifests through us the kind of love He desires us to have for one another. Then those relationships become the greatest platform we have to authenticate the gospel to this world. It takes all three to faithfully follow Jesus.

Actions:

Digital Missionaries

- Internet is been called the “New Frontier for Evangelism” Why?
 - **Primary source of information:** The internet has become the default place people go to for information, including spiritual and existential questions.
 - **Global reach:** Digital platforms allow for evangelistic efforts to reach people across the globe, no matter where they are located.
- How to Engage
 - Share this message – When you get home, and check Facebook, and you come across TFBC’s service, SHARE IT!,
 - Share a Verse – Share a story of God’s Grace

Share the Gospel.

- Flood Oct. 31st with Light of Jesus – Challenge you to share your story online on Friday. When you see someone’s story, repost it.

Identify FRANs – Intercede Daily – Invite them to Next Right Thing

Gospel Conversations!

Vance Pitman, “God didn’t bring you to Himself just to bless your life and give you your best life now. God brought you to Himself so out of the overflow of your intimate love relationship with Him—which is Christ in you, working through you—you could share in His mission locally and globally in fellowship with others.

Conclusion: Rope Illustration – Saw this years ago – Francis Chan

Rope is a Timeline – Imagine that it goes on forever.

- Sept. 7, 1971, I came into this world – the First born Son of D & P Hodges
- Red part represents my life ... your life; **Rest of the Rope represents eternity**
- We will exist somewhere for all eternity, Red part represents 75, 80, 90 years...
- James 4;14 – life is like a vapor, it appears for a little while and vanishes away
- We have a few short years...then all of eternity

So many of us...too many of us are living for what is in the Red

- All we think about is what’s in the red – work hard, accumulate stuff, retire and enjoy life.
- Too many are consumed with the red part
- Jesus said in **Mark 8:36-37** - For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? ³⁷ Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?
 - Many of us are more concerned with our kids academic than their eternal souls. We value athletic accomplishment over the eternal impact they could have for the kingdom of God.
 - Many of us reading this are more concerned about our kids’ occupations, what they’ll do for the rest of their lives, how much money they’ll make doing it; will it provide for them all the stuff we want them to have, rather than where they’re gonna spend eternity? I realize some things do have to get done, and applying to college is one of them, but are

you more concerned with that application or their applying the Word in their own life?

One matters a little. The other matters a whole lot. (Martin, *Stand Firm*, p. 111)

- Jesus said in **Matthew 6:19-21** - Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

We have a faulty Theology of Heaven

- Sitting around on a cloud all day, strumming a harp – Nothing can be further from the truth
- Perpetual Worship Service – Many of us enjoy this, but not sure about that...feel guilty.
- Two Great Truths I took away from the book Heaven by Randy Alcorn,
 - God never abandoned his original intent and design for this earth – Make it all new. Create a New Heaven and New Earth where Righteousness dwells
 - The Bible is clear, we will rule with the resurrected Jesus on the resurrected earth in our resurrected bodies.
- How Faithful you are here, will determine how you rule and reign there.
 - Faithfulness with small earthly things now prepares us for greater eternal responsibility and joy with Him later.

Why would I spend so much time and effort on that which will not last

- C.T. Studd, the famous British Cricket Player turned missionary is quoted as saying, "Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last."

Go Back to Ephesians 4 Merida – Unity of Purpose – Diversity of Function (Gifts)

“The ministry of serving may be as public as preaching or teaching, but more often it will be sequestered as nursery duty. It may be as visible as singing a solo, but usually it will be as unnoticed as operating the sound equipment to amplify the solo. Serving may be as appreciated as a good testimony in a worship service, but typically it’s as thankless as washing dishes after a church social. Most service, even that which seems most glamorous, is like an iceberg. Only the eye of God ever sees the larger, hidden part of it.”

Things to Communicate:

Leadership Development, not limited to Pastor, elder, deacon, teacher.

- Dorcas Servant, Find you place, No unimportant place – Share Week –

Every ministry is Important – Every ministry is interdependent

Rope illustration

Rick Warren writes, “Napoleon once pointed to a map of China, ‘There lies a sleeping giant. Each Sunday, church pews are filled with members who are doing nothing with their faith except ‘keeping’ it.

The designation ‘active’ member in most churches means those who attend regularly and financially support the church. Not much more is expected. But God has far greater expectations for every Christian.

God expects us to use our gifts and talents for the advancement of His Kingdom and the glorification of His name God.

It has been said that if we can ever awaken and unleash the massive talent, resources, creativity, and energy lying dormant in the typical local church, Christianity will explode with growth at an unprecedented rate.

1. Every believer is a minister – **Notice the Phrase, “...but we all...”**

Pillar #1: Every believer is a minister

Every believer isn’t a pastor, but every believer *is* called into Ministry. God calls **all** believers to minister to the world and the church. Service in the body isn’t **optional** for Christians. In God’s army, there are no volunteers—he drafted all of us into service.

To be a Christian is to be like Jesus. Jesus said, “...the Son of man came not to be ministered unto but to minister...” Mark 10:45. Service and giving are defining characteristics of the Christlike lifestyle expected of every believer.

Christians are...

- **Created for ministry –**
 - **Eph. 2:10** - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- **Saved for ministry –**
 - **II Tim. 1:8-9** - Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, ⁹who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,
- **Gifted for ministry –**
 - **I Peter 4:10** - As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
- **Authorized for ministry –**
 - **Mt. 28:18-20** - And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Go therefore^[c] and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.^[d]
- **Commanded to Minister –**
 - **Mt. 20:26-28** - Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. ²⁷And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— ²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
- **Accountable for ministry & will be Rewarded for his/her ministry –**
 - **Col. 3:23-24** - And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for^[a] you serve the Lord Christ.

2. We all have different gifts – last part of v. 4 (function)

- We will explore this over the course of the next couple of weeks.

- Gifts such as...

- ***Administration – Evangelism – Exhortation – Giving – Helps – Hospitality – Leadership – Mercy – Prophecy – Teaching – Shepherding***

Remember Where You Came From

- We were once a far off, without hope, without strength, without God in this world, but God is rich in mercy sent His only Son that we might have forgiveness – that we might be made new
- I once was lost, but now I'm found, thought I was blinded, now I see
- Were it not for grace, I can tell you where I'd be...wondering down a pointless road to nowhere, with my salvation up to me...I know how that would go, the battles I would face...forever running, but losing the race...were it not for grace

Reevaluate Your Commitment to the Body of Christ

- Are you giving of your time, talents, and treasure to build up the body
- Do you serve only when it's convenient – Some of our volunteers are overloaded
- Some of our volunteers are headed for burn out – You have been gifted by God to build up the body of Christ...You say, I don't know where to serve, come see me and we'll figure it out together

Renew Your Zeal for the Mission (to make and multiply disciples)

- In our Reading this week... John 6:27 – Do not labor for the food that perishes...
- We have been given gifts, talents, abilities, passions to build up the body to reach the world for Jesus
- “A true follower of Christ cannot hoard their faith, they are compelled to share and multiply it in others.”
- REVELATION 7:9-10 - AFTER THESE THINGS I LOOKED, AND BEHOLD, A GREAT MULTITUDE WHICH NO ONE COULD NUMBER, OF ALL NATIONS, TRIBES, PEOPLES, AND TONGUES, STANDING BEFORE THE THRONE AND BEFORE THE LAMB, CLOTHED WITH WHITE ROBES, WITH PALM BRANCHES IN THEIR HANDS, 10 AND CRYING OUT WITH A LOUD VOICE, SAYING, “SALVATION BELONGS TO OUR GOD WHO SITS ON THE THRONE, AND TO THE LAMB!”
- Every moment of our lives is to be lived on mission in light of that moment around the throne of Jesus. I'm not living for a great career or a comfortable retirement. I'm living for that moment when, around

the throne of Jesus, people from every culture and of every color will exalt His name together.