

The DNA of a Jesus Loving Community

Acts 2:42-47

Introduction:

Definition of DNA: the fundamental and distinctive characteristics or qualities of someone or something, especially when regarded as unchangeable.

What are the characteristics that make up the DNA of the Church?

1. Devoted to _____ the Word of God

2. Devoted to _____ With Other Believers

The image of fellowship and of gathering around meals speaks of a Church that understood their lives together could not be occasional or careless. It was deliberate, intentional, and real. In the middle of the third century, Cyprian, the Bishop of Carthage, wrote that a “common mind...prevailed once” in the Church. He then wrote, “God is one, and Christ is one, and His Church is one; one is the faith, and one the people cemented together by harmony into the strong unity of a body.”

3. Devoted to _____

4. Devoted to the _____ of the Lord (awe-filled)

5. Devoted to the _____ and _____ of God.

Paul Powell once described the modern Church as an entity that builds million dollar launching pads to send up bottle rockets. But God wants so much more for us!

6. Devoted to _____ Generosity.

We should be a sharing body in which nobody goes without while others have more than

enough.

7. Devoted to _____ Christian Living.

This is important to understand: if your connection to the Church is occasional, happenstance, and inconsistent, you are short changing yourself of those truly deep and meaningful relationships that only arise from a life lived together.

Do you see? This is not really about “good church attendance.” This is about building life rhythms together. This is about being a family. Those things do not happen when you are either not present or are rarely present.

8. Devoted to an _____ of Gladness and Thanksgiving.

Connect to the body of Christ and you will be glad. Invest your life in the great cause of the advance of the gospel in and through a local Christian congregation and you will find something to rejoice about. But keep your commitments weak and your connections shallow, and you will be amazed at how unhappy you become.

9. Devoted to _____ Praise.

10. Devoted to an _____ Disposition.

Should this not challenge us? Should there not be a love here that the world envies? Should there not be a generosity here at which the world marvels? Should there not be a sweetness of fellowship here that the world can barely even understand?

When Christ is given rule in His Church, He still draws all men to Himself.

11. Devoted to _____ and _____ Growth.

If we too seek to become this kind of family, united in the gospel, bold in witness, sincere in our love, faithful in our life together, God will grant the increase! This account in Acts need not be mere history. It remains a living possibility for the Church, and the only way forward.