



COMMITTED – COMMIT TO A LOCAL CHURCH

Community Group Study Guide: Acts 2:22-41 – Week of January 29, 2023

1. Commit to a local Church

Throughout the New Testament, there is a clear assumption that Christians are to be part of a group of believers. Jesus taught on what that group should look like, and how we should conduct ourselves within it. We see in scripture several instructions for the Church and its purpose. First, we see that the Church is a flock placed under Shepherds (1 Peter 5:1-5, Acts 20:28, Hebrews 13:17). Second, we see that the Church is a body with many members (Romans 12:4-5, 1 Cor 12:12-13, Col 3:12-15). Third, the Church is a temple built of living stones (1 Peter 2:4-5). Finally, the Church is the family and household of God (Eph 2:19, 1 Tim 3:14-15, Matt 12:46-50). Our relationship with the local Church is ultimately one of mutual commitment to care and accountability.

2. Commit to gathering to worship

We see that the early Church regularly went into the temple together. Likewise, we should desire and should be committed to gathering with one another to worship God. The reason why we commit ourselves to meeting to worship are: that God is worthy of our praise, that we were made to worship, that God is blessed by the preaching of His Word, that our hearts need to be stirred, that we need to encourage one another, that the day of Christ's return is drawing near, and that worship we participate in is a foretaste of what it will be like in heaven. For our context, there are several ways that we can commit ourselves to accomplishing the purposes of the Church. We can be praying throughout the week, committing ourselves to being prepared for worship, we can be committed to showing up early, committed to show up with a servant's heart, and committed to giving God our full attention and participation.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

In Christ, we have been redeemed back into fellowship with God. We have been reunited by the blood of the cross. Furthermore, we are now part of the Body of Christ, and are called to unified with other believers. This unity and fellowship is what we call the Church, and all Christians are commanded to be part of it.

Heart

Within the Church, we have opportunity to grow in love and service to one another. We reflect on how Christ has done this for us, and in turn give generously to the body.

Hands

We are called to fellowship consistently, worship continuously, and share sacrificially.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Baptism Seminar
February 12 @ 1 pm
Members Meeting
February 19 @ 1 pm

3. Commit to gathering in homes for fellowship

Continuing to follow the example set in Acts 2, we should meet in one another's homes to fellowship. This setting allows for the development of greater relationships, the capacities to meet specific needs, and overall gives opportunity to grow in love for one another. This is why we commit to gather in homes for fellowship.

4. Commit to sharing your life sacrificially

Another aspect that we see in our passage in Acts is that the Church was marked by their giving toward one another. They shared with any who had a need. Likewise, we as Christians are called to give to those in need, even when that comes at a sacrifice of our own possessions or belongings.

5. Commit to sharing the Gospel expectantly

The Lord added to the number of the early Church daily. We know that faith comes by hearing (Romans 10:17). The saints were faithful in proclamation of truth of Christ, and God used their witness for the salvation of those He had called. For us, we likewise should imitate the example set by the early Church.

Read Acts 2:22-41

1. Thinking of your views regarding the Church, what ways have you changed/matured in your understanding of the body? What areas has scripture convicted and changed your thinking?
2. **Read 1 Peter 5:1-5** The Church is a flock under the guidance of shepherds. What do we see in this passage that informs us on the design and direction of the Church? What responsibilities are placed on the shepherds and the sheep in this passage?
3. **Read Romans 12:4-5 & 1 Corinthians 12:12-13** How does thinking of the Church as a physical body change the way we think about it? How do we/how should we look at parts of the body that are different to us?
4. What does it mean to be in membership at Mosaic? What restraints or limits come with membership? What are some challenges that come with committing to this care and accountability?
5. Why is it that we as Christians are no longer required to meet/visit the temple (Hebrews 10:19-25)?
6. In our modern context, how do we devote ourselves to the apostle teachings? With a sober mind, how would we rate our devotion to Gods teaching?
7. What is an area in which you find yourself in need of greater commitment regarding the Church? Where have you been fighting temptation to be committed to something else instead of a commitment to the Church?