



[Build Community](#)

Acts 2:41-47

Wayne Braudrick

May 17, 2026

[Life Change: We devote ourselves to biblical community](#)

From the beginning, it wasn't good for man to be alone

Gen. 2:18

From the beginning, church community has been central

Acts 2:41-47

They identified with Jesus

They devoted themselves to the fellowship

They were in awe

They freely gave to the church

They became more effective with the lost

It is easy to understand how the appeal of Christianity would have surged in times when families and communities were suffering devastating losses from plague and when the traditional gods had fallen silent. Christian communities welcomed newcomers of any ethnicity, whether slave or free, rich or poor, and especially those in distress. They fostered a spirit of inclusivity, equality in the sight of God, and unity in Christ. Under the authority of their bishops, they built hospitals and other institutions for the relief of orphans, the poor, and the abandoned elderly. In obedience to the teaching of the apostle Paul, they offered to perfect strangers the kind of love and compassion ordinarily, in the ancient world, found only within families. They offered their churches as substitute families to those uprooted by war, famine, and plague. Amazingly to many, they nursed even those suffering from deadly infectious diseases. They countered fear of death with the hope of resurrection and eternal life. Daily, the faith seemed to transform persons enslaved by fear, greed, and ungovernable desires and miraculously give them new hearts of humility, forgiveness, peace, and love, a love that came from Jesus but was shared among the whole Church. Sinners were turned into saints.

- Allen Guelzo & James Hankins, *The Golden Thread*



Upcoming
Events



Give



Prayer
Request



We
WILL

Frisco Bible Values

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE

**18 Then the Lord God said,
“It is not good for the man
to be alone.”**

Genesis 2 CSB



Ben Sasse

- **We're lonely. The share of Americans who tell pollsters that they have no close friends has quadrupled since 1990. A study last month from the University of Arizona found that over the last 15 years, people average 338 fewer spoken words per day than the year before. That's 120,000 fewer words a year.**

• We don't trust our institutions. Pew data shows this most pointedly around the federal government, whose trust has dropped from 77% in the mid-1960s to 17% last year. Pew and Gallup have measured 10 different institutions every year for about 50 years. Nine of them have experienced a declining level of public trust for four consecutive decades. The military is the only exception.

**• We don't trust one another. Only 1 in 3 Americans tell Pew that they think they can trust most people, down significantly from previous decades. Conspiracy theories are metastasizing across the internet, and more of our neighbors are falling prey to these echo chambers. – Ben Sasse,
“Habits for Humanity in the Age of AI” in WSJ May 8, 2026**

**18 Then the Lord God said,
“It is not good for the man
to be alone.”**

Genesis 2 CSB



courtesy Tough Mudder



courtesy Jared Coe

⁴¹ So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all the believers were together and held all things in common.

45 They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Acts 2 CSB

41 So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them.

47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Acts 2 CSB



41 So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them.

47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Acts 2 CSB

Union with Christ is profoundly personal. And yet union with Christ is not merely personal. Every believer shares the same position, the same story of conversion, the same experience of transforming grace, and the same eternal hope. [Identity] with Christ unites the church...and we are united forever.

– Brad Weatherall, *Saved to Sin No More*



**But doesn't being known as
a Christian bring
problems?**





But doesn't being known as a Christian bring problems?

Yes, it does. But please share with me any worthwhile thing this side of the Garden that doesn't include problems? I'll wait...

**¹⁶ For God loved the world in this way:
He gave his one and only Son, so that
everyone who believes in him will not
perish but have eternal life.**

John 3 CSB



The interpretation of the “safe spaces” adopted by the Crown Prosecution Service effectively redefines peaceful Christian witness as a form of unlawful influence. If simply reading the Bible, praying, and preaching on God’s love can now be considered harmful because someone might overhear it within a certain area, then we have crossed a very serious line. John 3:16 is...a message about God’s love and salvation. If even that can be criminalized because of where it is spoken, then how can any public expression of Christian belief be truly safe from restriction? – Clive Johnston



4:19 Peter and John answered them [the Sanhedrin], “Whether it’s right in the sight of God for us to listen to you rather than to God, you decide; ²⁰ for we are unable to stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.” ²¹ After threatening them further, they released them. They found no way to punish them because the people were all giving glory to God over what had been done.

5:41 Then they went out from the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to be treated shamefully on behalf of the Name. ⁴² Every day in the temple, and in various homes, they continued teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

Greek: προσκαρτερέω proskartereo = built from a term for courage; represents determination, even when it's intimidating or discouraging to proceed.

46 Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts



courtesy morningcoach

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

Greek: προσκαρτερέω proskartereo = built from a term for courage; represents determination, even when it's intimidating or discouraging to proceed.

46 Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts

**He who drags himself through
life, who succumbs under its
weight, can't help anyone.**

**– Albert Camus,
*The Complete Notebooks***



Up until a few years ago, I could have been a poster child for “loner.” Thankfully, through brothers who loved me enough to tell me the truth, God has changed me so that I value community and seek it out now. I believe it is reasonable to say that if you don’t participate in community, you will never know what loving your brothers means; and thus you can never say you love God. [1 John 4:20 If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. (ESV)]

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

Greek: προσκαρτερέω proskartereo = built from a term for courage; represents determination, even when it's intimidating or discouraging to proceed.

46 Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts

**Lord help me be devoted
and unselfish, please.**





courtesy istock

Tyler J. VanderWeele, “Flourishing and Religious Attendance”

A considerable body of research has suggested that religious service attendance powerfully affects health and other aspects of our flourishing such as meaning in life, character, and close social relationships. Specifically, research has indicated that those who attend religious services at least weekly are about 30% less likely to die over a 15-year follow-up, about 30% less likely to become depressed, and over five times less likely to commit suicide.

Other evidence suggests that religious service attendance is associated with subsequently greater meaning in life, greater social connection and support, and lower likelihood of divorce. One interesting aspect of these associations is that it seems to be attendance, rather than religious or spiritual identity or private practices, that most strongly predicts health. Something about the communal religious experience seems to be very powerful. – Tyler J. VanderWeele, “Flourishing and Religious Attendance”

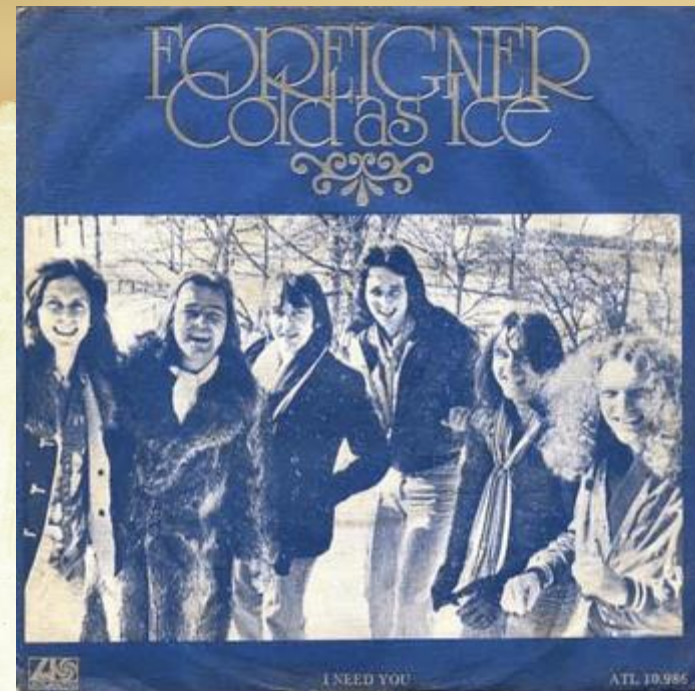




42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

**Greek: προσκαρτερέω
proskartereo = built from a term for
courage; represents determination,
even when it's intimidating or
discouraging to proceed.**

**You're as cold as ice
You're willing to sacrifice our love
You want paradise
But someday, you'll pay the price, I know
I've seen it before, it happens all the time
You're closing the door, you leave the world behind
You're digging for gold, you're throwing away
A fortune in feelings, but someday you'll pay
"Cold As Ice" by Mick Jones and Lou Gramm**



**43 Everyone was filled with awe,
and many wonders and signs were
being performed through the
apostles.**

Acts 2 CSB

WAYNE BRAUDRICK

THE POWER
OF A *Merry*
HEART

An Interactive Workbook on
GRATITUDE

Effect: not feeling awe

Possible cause:

**God suddenly has quit
doing great things.**

Possible cause:

**The pains or commotions
of life have distracted me.**

Believers have been forgiven by God of every sin they have ever committed! Jesus paid for all our sins when he went to the cross. Because we have been forgiven, we are empowered to forgive.



When we lose sight of the awesomeness of God's grace toward us, we often live out the parable of the unforgiving servant.

– Jared Coe



28 That servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him, started choking him, and said, 'Pay what you owe!'

Matthew 18 CSB

The Ungrateful Servant
Peter Pourbus
1570

Median income in our region in 2024 = \$63,360.

- **In AD 30, a talent is understood to represent 20 years of wages (about ½ working life). Thus, in today's numbers, 1 talent = \$1,267,200. 10,000 talents = \$12,672,000,000.**
- **In AD 30, a denarius is equivalent to cost of a nice casual tunic (think polo shirt). Thus, in today's numbers, 1 denarius = \$54. 100 denarii = \$5,400.**

Shaun Thomas spent 24 years behind bars for a murder he didn't commit. He walked free with \$4.1 million in compensation. Now he's back in prison – for killing a man over a \$1,200 drug debt.



31 When the other servants saw what had taken place, they were deeply distressed and went and reported to their master everything that had happened. 32 Then, after he had summoned him, his master said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33 Shouldn't you also have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' 34 And because he was angry, his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured until he could pay everything that was owed. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to you unless every one of you forgives his brother or sister from your heart.

Matthew 18 CSB

Believers have been forgiven by God of every sin they have ever committed! Jesus paid for all our sins when he went to the cross. Because we have been forgiven, we are empowered to forgive.



When we lose sight of the awesomeness of God's grace toward us, we often live out the parable of the unforgiving servant.

– Jared Coe



By the power of the Spirit, we will:

- **Hold fast to the Word**
- **Grow up in Christ**
- **Build Community**
- **Equip to Serve**
- **Strengthen families**

44 Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. 45 They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Acts 2 CSB

**¹ How delightfully good
when brothers live together
in harmony!**

Psalm 133 CSB

They drove 10+ hours (one way) for Rhy's (pastor's son) High School graduation and served our socks off all weekend. They are returning next Thursday night for Elijah's (college graduation) ceremony Friday morning and then driving 8 hours for our nieces' graduation on Saturday. Most wonderfully, they find JOY in this sacrifice.



**¹ How delightfully good when brothers
live together in harmony!**

Psalm 133 CSB

⁴⁴ Now all the believers were together

Acts 2 CSB

44 Now all the believers were together and held all things in common.

Emerging from our epidemic of loneliness and isolation will require not only individual changes in how we relate to one another (and to our devices), but collective changes in how we order our common life. This will include [sacrifices], notably to how young people relate to digital technologies, particularly at school. But, perhaps most importantly, it will require a cultural and even spiritual transformation, one in which community and common goods are restored to the centrality...which we have, for decades, eroded to our peril. – Brenden Case & Tyler Vanderweele, “What to Do About the Loneliness Epidemic”

44 Now all the believers were together and held all things in common.

the
body of christ

1 Corinthians 12:12-25



Two lies which damage giving within the body

- **Devaluing Lie: I do not belong. Truth: Every believer is a part of the Lord's body and has been given the gifts He wants each to have. (See 1 Corinthians 12:14-19.)**
- **Demeaning Lie: I see some gifts or roles as lesser. Truth: There are a variety of gifts, personalities, and skills within the body and all are important. (See 1 Corinthians 12:20-22.)**

**Isn't Acts describing
communism as ideal?**



- **All is owned by the state.**
- **The collective gifts are overseen and distributed by the state.**
- **No communist government has ever allowed religious freedom.**



44 Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. 45 They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need.



All your fights come down to one thing – you don't put your money where your values are. (For more on that, see James 4:1-3.)

– Dan Cox

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Jesus doesn't change that base in human nature when a person trusts Christ. He changes what we value. When saved, one begins to treasure different things; we gain eyes for a new value system. The drive of the human heart is still present – it just drives toward a different treasure. – Paul Hahn

47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Acts 2 CSB

Allen Guelzo & James Hankins, *The Golden Thread*

It is easy to understand how the appeal of Christianity would have surged in times when families and communities were suffering devastating losses from plague and when the traditional gods had fallen silent. Christian communities welcomed newcomers of any ethnicity, whether slave or free, rich or poor, and especially those in distress. They fostered a spirit of inclusivity, equality in the sight of God, and unity in Christ. Under the authority of their bishops, they built hospitals and other institutions for the relief of orphans, the poor, and the abandoned elderly.

In obedience to the teaching of the apostle Paul, they offered to perfect strangers the kind of love and compassion ordinarily, in the ancient world, found only within families. They offered their churches as substitute families to those uprooted by war, famine, and plague. Amazingly to many, they nursed even those suffering from deadly infectious diseases. They countered fear of death with the hope of resurrection and eternal life. Daily, the faith seemed to transform persons enslaved by fear, greed, and ungovernable desires and miraculously give them new hearts of humility, forgiveness, peace, and love, a love that came from Jesus but was shared among the whole Church. Sinners were turned into saints. – Allen Guelzo & James Hankins, *The Golden Thread*



De
WILL

Frisco Bible Values