

The Shape of a Discipled Church Formed by the Gospel

Acts 2:42-47

MAIN IDEA: *When people truly repent and believe the gospel, God forms them into a devoted, unified, worshiping church that reflects and shares Christ with others and grows spiritually as the Lord saves.*

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT: In verses 36–41, Peter preached Christ. The Spirit convicted hearts. People asked, “What shall we do?” They repented, believed, and were baptized. Three thousand souls were added. Now the question becomes: What does real conversion produce? Not hype. Not private religion or vague spirituality. Real conversion produces a Christian church and leads to making more disciples. Acts 2:42–47 is not a sentimental snapshot. It is a Spirit-inspired description of what Gospel transformation looks like in community.

1. The Devoted Church Anchored in Truth (v.42a) (“*They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching...*”)

- A. **Devotion is deliberate and not casual attendance; they persisted**
 - Note: the imperfect tense indicates ongoing action – this was their lifestyle.
- B. **The priority was doctrine**
 - They did not devote themselves first to programs, experience, or music
 - They devoted themselves to: 1) the apostles’ teaching, 2) the truth about Christ, and 3) Scripture fulfilled by Him. The early church was Word-centered.
- C. **Truth shapes identity**
 - Doctrine is not academic, or for pastors only; it forms disciples!
 - A church that drifts from teaching drifts from Christ.
- D. **Application:** Read Scripture daily, not occasionally. Sit under faithful teaching with seriousness. Discuss the truth in your home. Join a Bible study or small group. Take responsibility for your own spiritual growth. Protect your mind from false teaching.

2. A Unified Church Sharing Life Together (42b–45) (“*...and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread...*”)

- A. **The word *koinonia* means a shared common life**
 - They did not ‘attend’ church; they belonged to one another.
- B. **Fellowship included shared worship**
 - Breaking of bread: likely means they ate meals and took the Lord’s Supper together; they worshiped together.
- C. **Fellowship included radical generosity**
 - “*They sold their possessions... distributed to anyone as they had need.*”
 - This was not forced communism. It was voluntary compassion.
 - Gospel grace loosened their grip on possessions.
- D. **Application:** Open your home. Share meals. Give generously. Look for needs inside the church. Refuse isolated Christianity. A single coal outside the fire grows cold!

3. A Worshipping Church Marked by Awe and Joy (v. 43, 46)

- A. **Awe came from God’s power (“*They Met Day By Day...*”)**
 - “*Everyone was filled with awe...*” They recognized God was at work!
 - Healthy churches are God-aware.

- B. **Worship was daily, not weekly (“*They Met Day By Day*”)**
 - This was not Sunday-only faith; this is faith that overflows into everyday life.
- C. **Joy was Visible (“*They ate with joyful and sincere hearts...*”)**
 - Gospel repentance did not produce gloom; it produced joy!
 - Forgiven people are grateful people.
- D. **Application:** Worship with expectancy. Cultivate daily prayer. Let gratitude shape your attitude. Refuse joyless Christianity.

4. A Witnessing Church That Attracts the Watching World (v. 47a) (“*...praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.*”)

- A. **Their lives were visible; the community noticed.**
 - The Gospel changed how they lived
- B. **Their praise was public**
 - They did not hide their worship. Their joy was contagious.
- C. **This witness was corporate (gathered in unity)**
 - The church was testimony to Christ; a watching world saw something different
- D. **Application:** Live your faith publicly. Let your integrity match your message. Speak about Christ naturally. Invite others into our community. Evangelism is not only proclamation. It is transformed people living together under Christ.

5. A Growing Church Built by the Lord (47b) (“*And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*”)

- A. **This is the theological anchor of the passage: *God saves, not people.***
- B. **Growth is God’s Work.** The Lord added. Not strategy, manipulation, or branding.
 - Faithfulness precedes fruitfulness. They devoted. They worshiped. They gave. They witnessed. God brought growth.
- C. **The mission continues.** The church that repents together grows together.
- D. **Application:** Be faithful. Leave results to God. Pray daily for salvation. Support missions. Invite people to church. Share the gospel personally. You are always responsible for obedience before the Lord. God is responsible for salvation.

Big Picture for the Series

Matthew 28 — Authority
Matthew 9 — Compassion
1 Corinthians 15 — The Message (the Gospel)
Acts 1:8 — The Power (the Holy Spirit)
Acts 2:36–41 — The Response
Acts 2:42–47 — The Community It Produces

The gospel does not merely save individuals. It forms a church. And that church reflects and shares Christ. Are you reflecting and sharing Christ?

Closing Challenge:

Church, if we claim repentance, but reject devotion, if we claim faith, but avoid fellowship, if we love Christ, but ignore His people— then something is disconnected. Real repentance produces real community. So here is the question: Is your life shaped by the gospel privately —and is it visible publicly? Because when the gospel takes root, God forms a church. And when God forms a church, the world sees Christ.