

THE MARKS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

State of the Church: 2024

January 14, 2024

Pastor Brian

Acts 2

The church (*Ekklesia*) is a local gathering of God's **PEOPLE** covenanted together to fulfill God's **PURPOSES**.

A healthy church is...

1. Powered by **THE HOLY SPIRIT**.

*“On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And **everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit** and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.” (Acts 2:1–4, NLT)*

“Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.” (Matthew 16:18, NLT)

2. Beautifully **DIVERSE**.

- **Multi-ETHNIC**.

“Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs...” (Acts 2:9–11, NLT)

- **Multi-GENERATIONAL**.

*“In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people... Your **young men** will see visions, and your **old** men will dream dreams.” (Acts 2:17, NLT)*

- **Dual-GENDERED**.

*“Even on my servants, both **men** and **women**, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.” (Acts 2:18, NIV)*

UNIFYING FACTOR: JESUS!

*“**Everyone** who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.” (Acts 2:21, NLT)*

*“**[Christ]** is the Head of the body made up of his people—that is, his Church—which he began; and **he is the Leader**...” (Colossians 1:18, The Living Bible)*

3. **LEADER** led & **VOLUNTEER** driven.

*“**Peter stood with the eleven apostles** and spoke in a loud and clear voice to the crowd: Friends and everyone else living in Jerusalem, listen carefully to what I have to say!” (Acts 2:14, CEV)*

*“So **the Twelve** called a meeting of all the believers. “We should spend our time preaching, not administering a feeding program,” they said. “Now look around among yourselves, dear brothers, and select seven men, wise and full of the Holy Spirit, who are well thought of by everyone; and we will **put them in charge of this business**. Then we can spend our time in prayer, preaching, and teaching.” (Acts 6:2–4, The Living Bible)*

*“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to **equip God’s people** to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11–12, NLT)*

4. **NEXT STEP** steered.

*“Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter replied, “Each of you must **repent** of your sins and **turn** to God, and be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:37–38, NLT)*

*“With each of you we were like a father with his child, holding your hand, whispering encouragement, showing you **step-by-step** how to live well before God...” (1 Thessalonians 2:11–12, The Message)*

5. **FAMILY** focused.

*“Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and **added to the church** that day—about 3,000 in all.” (Acts 2:41, NLT)*

*“Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but **you are members of God’s very own family**, citizens of God’s country, and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.” (Ephesians 2:19, The Living Bible)*

6. **LARGE & SMALL** at the same time.

*“They worshiped together at the **Temple** each day, met in **homes** for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—” (Acts 2:46, NLT)*

*“The churches here in the province of Asia send greetings in the Lord, as do Aquila and Priscilla and all the others who **gather in their home** for church meetings.” (1 Corinthians 16:19, NLT)*

7. Cheerfully **GENEROUS.**

*“And all the believers met together in one place and **shared everything they had.** They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.” (Acts 2:44–45, NLT)*

*“At the moment I have all I need—and more! I am **generously supplied** with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God. And this same God who takes care of me will **supply all your needs** from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:18–19, NLT)*

8. **EVER EXPANDING.**

“all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47, NLT)

Acts 1:15 Acts 5:14
Acts 2:41 Acts 5:28
Acts 2:47 Acts 6:1
Acts 4:4 Acts 6:7
Acts 21:20 - “muriades”

*“And just look at what’s been happening here—**thousands upon thousands** of God-fearing Jews have become believers in Jesus!” (Acts 21:20, MSG)*

9. Highly **COMMITTED.**

*“All the believers **devoted themselves** to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42, NLT)*

*“I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! But since you are like **lukewarm** water, neither hot nor cold, I will **spit** you out of my mouth!” (Revelation 3:15–16, NLT)*

ACTION STEPS

1st Base

Recommitment Covenant

[Josiah] went up to the Temple of the Lord with...all the people from the least to the greatest. There the king read to them the entire Book of the Covenant...and renewed the covenant in the Lord’s presence. He pledged to obey the Lord by keeping all his commands, laws, and decrees with all his heart and soul...and all the people pledged themselves to the covenant.

2 Kings 23:1-3 (NLT)