

## “ADJ - Church in Acts Part 1” (9-4-22)

**Series Introduction:** The Church's origin, mission, & message. The Holy Spirit plays central role to fulfill this!

**Today:** The Church's Origin & Mission - are we fulfilling this mission in our lives Today?

### Origin of the Church in Acts chapters 1 & 2

#### **Acts 1:4-5, 8 (ESV)**

(4) And while staying with them (Jesus) ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; (5) for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now . . . (8) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

**Note:** The Church is the Body of Christ, filled with the Spirit of Christ!

- This is His promise and our true source of power
- We are meant to embody Christ in the world, in order to show Him to the world

#### **Acts 1:13-15 (ESV)**

(13) And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. (14) All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. (15) In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) . . .

**Note:** After 3+ years of ministry & his death, resurrection, & ascension there was a devoted family of 120!

- If 120 could change the world, what could that number do in Knoxville?

**Acts 2** - Filled with the Spirit, declared the Gospel in their city, and the church was born!

#### **Acts 2:1-4 (ESV)**

(1) When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. (2) And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. (3) And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. (4) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

#### **Acts 2:5, 14, 38-39, 41 (ESV)**

(5) Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven . . . (14) But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words . . . (38) And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (39) For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” . . . (41) So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

### Mission of the Church: Acts 2:42-47

#### **Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)**

(42) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (43) And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. (44) And all who believed were together and had all things in common. (45) And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. (46) And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, (47) praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

## 1) Minister to the Lord

- **Early Church** - took Jesus' words seriously, they loved him, and they committed themselves to his call.
- **Cultivating a love relationship** - "Devoted" to teaching, breaking bread, prayer, & praise! (42 & 47)

### Colossians 3:23-24 (ESV)

(23) Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, (24) knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

**Note:** First and foremost we are "serving" or "ministering" to the Lord. Inheritance is the language of family!

### Psalms 84:9-10 (ESV)

(9) Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed! (10) For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

**Note:** Not about advancement, or title - just loving service to our King!

**Personal Example:** Abby seeing my face - "you can kiss my cheek"

**Homework:** 1st Peter chapter 1 - a beautiful picture of our inheritance, & cultivating a love relationship with Christ that produces holiness!

## 2) Minister to the Church (One Another)

Serving each other & operating in our gifts . . .

- **Fellowship** - in the temple (46) & their homes (42)
- **Spiritual Gifts** - Wonders & Signs (43)
- **Served One-Another** - Meeting each others needs, together they cared for each other (44)
- **Giving** - with Joy & Generosity (45-46)

**Example:** (Acts 6:1-7) as the church grew & the needs increased, care for the people was not neglected - others join in to serve! And this "simple" ministry of service was a high calling . . .

### Acts 6:3 (ESV)

Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.

### 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 10-11 (ESV)

(6) The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. (7) Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (8) And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. . . (10) He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. (11) You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

**Note:** As we live generously (rooted in love), we are graciously filled and provided for!

**Modern Example: Bob Goff** - tell story of the Staff reading **Everybody Always** / then calling him!

**Homework:** See Additional Notes - The One-Another's in Scripture

### 3) Minister to the World

We are to share the love of Christ with the world in both **Word** (evangelism) & **Deed** (fruit of the Spirit)

This is a key part of our primary mission & a supernatural by-product of the first 2 functioning well . . .

#### **Acts 2:46-47 (ESV)**

(46) And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, (47) praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

This is the call for the whole church . . .

#### **Ephesians 4:11-12 (ESV)**

(11) And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, (12) to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ

**Conclusion:** To be the church we are called to be, we must understand our Origin & Mission, and commit ourselves to ministry!

## For Additional Study

### 1) Minister to the Lord

#### 1 Peter 1:3-25 (ESV)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,  
 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,  
 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.  
 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,  
 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.  
 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,  
 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.  
 10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully,  
 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.  
 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.  
 13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.  
 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,  
 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,  
 16 since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”  
 17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,  
 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,  
 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.  
 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you  
 21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.  
 22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,  
 23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;  
 24 for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls,  
 25 but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

## 2) Minister to One Another

From Foundation's Notes: **The "One Another's" of Scripture**

- Serve One another

"For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." Galatians 5:13 (NKJV)

- Accept One Another

"Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory." Romans 15:7 (NLT)

- Forgive One Another

"...bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." Colossians 3:13 (ESV)

- Greet One Another

"Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you." Romans 16:16 (NKJV)

- Bear One Another's Burdens

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2 (NKJV)

- Be Devoted to One Another

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves." Romans 12:10 (NIV)

- Honor One Another

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves." Romans 12:10 (NIV)

- Submit to One Another

"And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." Ephesians 5:21 (NLT)

- Encourage One Another

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV)