

SIGNS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

Acts 2:42

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 4:32-35

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.

Acts 4:32-35

And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

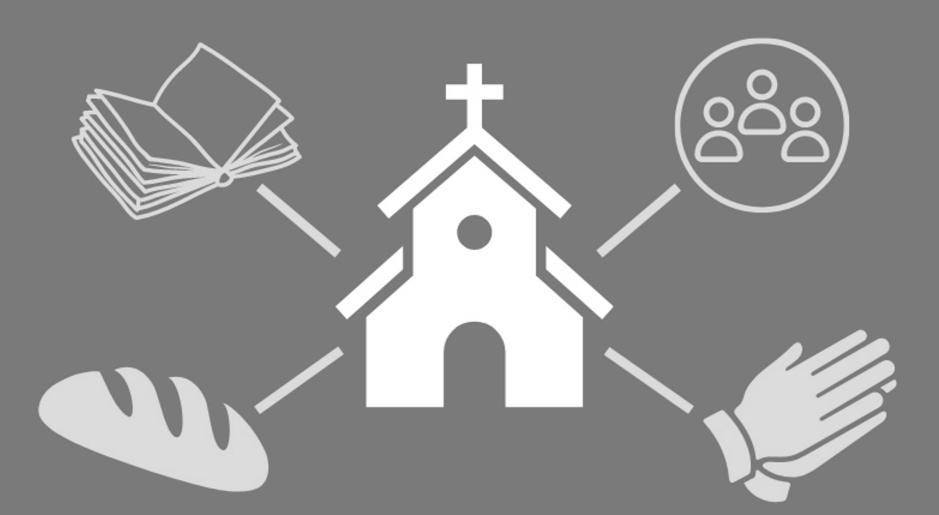
Acts 4:32-35

There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.



THE FOCUS OF THE NT CHURCH

ACTS 2:42



<u>Sign #1</u>

Healthy churches strive for genuine unity

Acts 4:32

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

(Ephesians 4:1-6 ESV)

UNSTOPPABLE

<u>Sign #2</u>

Healthy churches are unified by a shared perspective.

Acts 4:32

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.



WHAT WE THINK WILL HAPPEN MARINES PEALITY

MORE MONEY & STOFF

Stewardship 101

GOD MADE AND OWNS EVERYTHING

GOD HAS ENTRUSTED RESPONSIBILITY TO US

GOD EQUIPS US WITH WHAT WE NEED TO BE GOOD STEWARDS

<u>Sign #3</u>

Healthy churches are unified around a shared mission

Acts 4:33

And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

"What joined them was not simply a common affiliation to the church. There was a spiritual unity and a unity of passionate commitment to a mission... Community life is never an end in itself; a vibrant community is a community in mission."

(Fernando, <u>Acts</u>, p. 179)

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.

(Philippians 1:27 ESV)



Our Mission



Disciples Making Disciples

<u>Sign #4</u>

Healthy churches strive for genuine unity

Acts 4:34-35

There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.



Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:2-4 ESV)

Conclusion

How does God want me to contribute to a healthier, more unified church?

