

UNSTOPPABLE

THE GOSPEL CAN'T BE CHAINED

ACTS

Acts 2:14-41

The Gospel Demands a Response

- When Jesus is clearly preached, people are called to repent and believe.
- Hearing the truth about Jesus means you have to decide what you will do with Him.



What the Church Should Look Like

A healthy church is devoted to truth, community, worship, and mission.



This passage describes the historical outworking of God's ideal in the first local church. It describes the newborn church in its prime, when it possessed a purity of devotion to the risen Lord unmatched in succeeding generations.

Three distinguishing dimensions emerge: 1. Spiritual duties, 2. spiritual attitudes, and 3. spiritual impact.

Acts 2:42

**The Early Church was
committed to Spiritual Duties**



Nothing outside the living Lord, the Spirit, and the Word defies life for the church.

❖V42a: They were continually devoting themselves

❖It was a saved church

❖They (the 3000 baptized in verse 41), despite the hate, ridicule, and persecution they suffered, they remained faithful. That is a mark of genuine salvation

❖John 8:31 - If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of mine.

❖John 15:1-4 - The true branch will abide in the vine.

❖Matt 13:3-9, 21 - The good seed will not wither and die under persecution

❖CONTRAST:

❖1 John 2:19 - They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us.

❖James 1:23-25: For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself, goes away, and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

❖V42b: to the apostles' teaching

❖It was a scriptural church.

❖God designed the church to be a place where His Word is proclaimed and explained.

❖1 Peter 2:2 - Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.

❖Paul's letters reflect the priority of preaching the Word:

❖1 Tim 4:6-faith and sound doctrine; 11-Prescribe and teach these things; 13-give attention to the public reading of Scripture; 16 - pay close attention to your

teaching

- ❖ 2 Tim 4:1-2: preach the word, be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction

- ❖ Titus 1:9 - elder must know the word so they can exhort and refute.

- ❖ A believer should count it a wasted day when he does not learn something new from, or is not more deeply enriched by, the truth of God's Word.

- ❖ Scripture is food for the believer's growth and power - and there is no other. A church today that ignores the exposition and application of Scripture is at its peril

- ❖ Hosea 4:6 - My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

- ❖ The Church cannot operate on truth it is not taught; believers cannot function on principles they have not learned.

- ❖ V42c: and to fellowship

- ❖ It was a fellowshiping church.

- ❖ This is the spiritual duty of believers to stimulate each other to holiness and faithfulness. It is most specifically expressed through the one another's of the New Testament

- ❖ Koinōnia shows up 19 times in the New Testament, talking about a partnership or sharing.

- ❖ A Christian to fail to participate in the life of a local church is inexcusable. In fact, those who choose to isolate themselves are disobedient to the direct command of Scripture.

- ❖ The Bible does not envision the Christian life as one lived apart from other believers. All members of the universal church, the body of Christ, are to be actively and intimately involved in local assemblies.

- ❖ V42d: to the breaking of bread.

- ❖ A Christ Centered Church

- ❖ Communion calls for self-examination and purging of sin, thus purifying the church. Nothing is more vital to the church's ongoing, regular confrontation of sins in the lives of its people than the thoughtful expression of devotion to the remembrance of the cross.

- ❖ V42e: to prayer

- ❖ A praying Church

- ❖ The first fellowships were eagerly and persistently engaged in the critical duty of prayer. Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the muscles of omnipotence.

- ❖ John 14:13-14: If you ask in my name, I will do, that the Father will be glorified in the Son. The Early Church took that promise as the source of God's provision for all their needs, and they relentlessly pursued divine help. The Prayer in view here is not ONLY that of the individual believers, but of the church corporately.

- ❖ Prayer is often neglected in the church today. People come for the concerts, programs, and entertainment, but prayer meetings attract only the faithful few.

- ❖ The church today has forgotten the Bible's commands to pray at all times (Luke 18:1, Eph 6:11) and be devoted to prayer (Rom 12:2, Col 4:2)

Acts 2:43-47a

**Faithfulness to spiritual duties
builds spiritual character.**



◆ A church that fulfills its spiritual duties will find that those duties produce a spiritual character. There are 4 aspects of that in this passage.

◆ V43a: And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe.

◆ IT WAS AN AWE-INSPIRING CHURCH

◆ Phobos (awe) refers to fear or holy terror related to the sense of divine presence, the attitude of reverence. It describes the feeling produced when one realizes God is at hand.

◆ Luke 7:16 - raising of the widow's son.

◆ They weren't awed by the church because of its building, programs, or anything reflecting human ability, but by the supernatural character of its life.

◆ V43b: And Many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

◆ IT WAS A MIRACULOUS CHURCH

◆ Wonders and signs were designed to attract attention and point to spiritual truth.

◆ Today we can determine who speaks for God by comparing their teaching with God's revelation in Scripture.

◆ God still performs miracles in response to the prayers of His people.

◆ Greatest Sign today: Transformation of rebellious sinners into His beloved children.

◆ Vv44-46a:

◆ IT WAS A SHARING CHURCH

◆ 1 Peter 4:9- Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

◆ 2 Cor 8:14-15: having an abundance/ 1 John 3:16-18: closing the heart to a brother in need.

◆ vv. 46b-47a: With gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God

◆ IT WAS A JOYFUL CHURCH

✦ Joy comes from giving God glory. People will never know lasting joy if they glorify themselves.

Acts 2:47b

**A God-filled church becomes
a powerful witness to others**



◆ The dynamic corporate life and spiritual character of the church had a great impact.

◆ V47b: and having favor with all the people

◆ THEY WERE AN ATTRACTIVE CHURCH

◆ Philosopher Aristides: This passage summarized an early description of Christians as a community marked by truth, worship of the one Creator God, moral purity, honesty, humility, generosity, and mutual love. They obey Christ's commands, refuse idolatry, care for widows, orphans, strangers, prisoners, and the poor— even fasting so others can eat. They treat fellow believers as spiritual family, give thanks constantly, face death with hope, and grieve only when someone dies in sin.

◆ V47c: And the Lord was adding to their numbers day by day those who were being saved

◆ THEY WERE A GROWING CHURCH

◆ Effective evangelism was the ultimate impact of the first fellowship's spiritual duties and character.

◆ A Unified, joyful, and Spirit-filled church was their very existence was a powerful testimony to the truth of the gospel

◆ True evangelism flows from the life of a healthy church.

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