

# ACTS 4 PART II

## Main Point: WE are the Church!

*[12] For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. [13] For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body (the church)--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. [14] For in fact the body is not one member but many.*

*1 Corinthians 12:12-14 NKJV*

## Digging Deeper

### **What / Who is the Church**

In our American culture, we often associate the church, with a building or with a local organization. In many cases, we associate the church with a religious institution run by men, governed by men, while forgetting the fact that Christ is indeed the head of the Church. This thought pattern has led to a deep distrust of the organization causing many people to fall away from the church and neglect meeting with one another. This week we are going to look at the characteristics of the **AUTHENTIC** Church of Jesus Christ and how we can do our part to ensure that we live up to His expectations.

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Heb 10:25

Review the following points and verses together:

- #1 – The Church is a Living Organism – Vs 32a
- #2 – The Church is Christ-Centered – Vs 33
- #3 – The Church is Others Centered – Vs 32b, 34-37
- #4 – Sin Must Be Taken Seriously – Acts 5:1-11

## Discussion Questions

1. As a living organism, are our individual lives in tune with the heart of Christ? His desires, His appetites, His passion?
2. What about collectively? Is our local church body in tune with the mission of Christ? Are we caring for others the way Christ would? What are some ways we can do better?
3. How seriously do we take sin? Individually, corporately (as a group), and as a global body? Do we tolerate sin in our presence?
4. Acts 5:1-11 shows us that the church held each other accountable to the standards that God has set for us. How often do we hold others accountable to their witness? Are we willing to be held accountable?