

“Alternative Culture” : Telling Another Story of Transformation | Wk 7

2/14/2021 | @[ASeattleChurch](#)

“Together” by [Aaron Hagen](#)

SERMON NOTES:

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

Structure: Four Practices (the first century church practiced)
Two kinds of Fruit (which came from the community)
Four Weeds (which hinder community growth/ engagement)

The First Practice- - Teaching, Fellowship, Rhythm of Gathering

- o Jesus was a rabbi. His disciples knew the importance of continuing to share his teachings.
- o Jesus began his ministry and brought others with him and shared time together.

The Second Practice - Communion and Shared Meals

- o Pointing back to the Last Supper/ First Communion. The shared meal was a celebration.
- o 7 weeks from Passover to Pentecost. Was so fresh in their mind.

The Third Practice - Prayer and Worship

- o There was only one thing the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to do, pray: Lords prayer.
- o They knew it was such a vital part of Jesus’ own life. In our busy age, pray and song are vital.
- o Some scholars believe Jesus lead his disciples in singing from the psalms while walking.

The Fourth Practice - Generous Hearts

- o They had all things in common – glad and generous hearts. Living an alternative culture
- o 75-90% of society was at or below the poverty line. Rich, sold things to help the poor.

First Fruit - People's Response- Awe came on all and favor with all

- o Agape love put on display. They cared and loving the person for who they are, not for what they have or can bring. Jesus displayed this.

Second Fruit - Supernatural - Wonders, signs and salvation

- o Many miracles at the hands of the followers of Jesus recorded in Acts.
- o The same power that rose Jesus from the grave lives in each believer (Ephesians 1).
- o People responded and were saved at the spoken word, Gospel of Jesus.

First Weed - Division / Unrecognized Prejudice Acts 6- Greek & Hebrew believers

- o The Greek widows were being neglected. A prejudice or favoritism was addressed
- o The leaders elected new stewards all w/ Greek names. Empowered a disempowered group.

Second Weed - Importance and Status 1 Corinthians 12

- o Paul uses the image of a body to illustrate that all parts of the community are important.

Third Weed - Romanticized community

- o “The person who loves their dream of community will destroy community, but the person who loves those around them will create community wherever they go.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Fourth Weed - The tall weeds of Past Hurt

- o Hurt from transiency of our city.
- o Gandhi, “If it weren’t for Christians I would be a Christian.”

Supplemental Study: “Going Deeper”

Read about the journey of being a part of God’s community. We are part of God’s people who have been scattered far and wide (Zechariah 10:8-9), but gathered in Jesus (John 11:52) and continue to gather together until the end of the age (Matthew 25). Also read Revelation 21, looking at the culmination of human history and where Christian community is going.

Read and reflect on this quote by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “The community of the saints is not an 'ideal' community consisting of perfect and sinless men and women, where there is no need of further repentance. No, it is a community which proves that it is worthy of the gospel of forgiveness by constantly and sincerely proclaiming God's forgiveness.” What does this make you think about? How does this help shape your thinking of ASC or wherever you call your church home?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS (Small Group & Personal):

WARM-UP: “Together” *(use one or none)*

1. If you could be awesome at a hobby, which would it be?
2. If you could have shopping spree at any store which would it be?

WORD: “Truth”

Leader: Questions below should allow for quick responses, evident by close reading of the text. Choose to use some or all of them (pending pace), as reading of the passage(s) will answer them as well.

- **Sermon Recap:** Aaron helped us to look at the final circle of the mission of A Seattle Church, Together. The text he used was Acts 2:42-47. In the text he highlighted four practices the first Church participated in and fleshed out two outcomes or fruits that came from their intentional living. The four practices are the devotion to 1) fellowship and teaching, 2) communion and shared meal, 3) prayer and worship, and 4) generosity. The two kinds of fruit that came from this community were 1) people response- awe and favor, and 2) miraculous- wonders, signs and salvations. After looking at the text and sharing about the practices and fruits, Aaron lead us to consider the weeds in community that seek to hinder a community’s fruit and the tall weeds on the outside of the community, which hinder others from entering. The four weeds Aaron shared are 1) division or unrecognized prejudice, 2) dysfunctional honor dynamics, 3) romanticized community, and 4) past hurt. Aaron invited us to consider where we are in community. He asked if there are practices the first church participated in that are lacking in our own lives and where we could step in? Also, are there weeds within our community or weeds that we see that need to be uprooted for ourselves or other folks to enter in or for the community to thrive and produce the greatest fruit?

- Read Acts 2:42-47 together outloud:
Introduce or refresh SOAP to your group, then read the text and lead them through.

S- Scripture: Read the text

O- Observations: What stood out, what makes you curious, what questions do you have

A- Application: How does it or a part of this scripture speak to your life? What are the implications? Where do I relate? Where do I find myself? What is convicting?

P- Prayer: Pray the text in your own words, pray about what resonated with you, pray regarding your application...

APPLICATION: “Life”:

1. Which practice(s) come easier to you?
2. Which practice(s) might God be inviting you into?
3. What weeds do you see? How can we uproot those weeds?

PRAYER “Truth” (options of how to pray in your group)

1. Pray for greater community, even in your small group.
2. How can we support you in community better, are there any specifics?
3. Do you have any other specific prayer requests?

COMMUNION “Together”

Lead your group in communion in a way that feels right.

- If needed, 1 Corinthians 11:23-27
 - **23** ...that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **25** In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS at ASC:

1. **Invite a friend and join us online:**
 - a. Feb 21: Special Guest Pastor Darren Rouanzoin. You won't want to miss it!
2. **1st In-Person All-Church ASC Watch-Party. 10AM at Collective Seattle:**
 - a. Feb 28: We'll also be kicking off our New Series “Habits”
 - i. Register [HERE](#)

3. **Young Adult Night:** On February 22, we will be hosting a Young Adult Virtual hangout, Brice will be speaking on managing stress and anxiety. Signup on the website or the free ASC app. <https://aseattlechurch.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/720442>
4. **All-Church Prayer Calls:**
 - a. Wednesday's from 1230-1pm each week. 1-253-215-8782, 86546382360#
 - b. Friday Mornings from 6:30am-7am 1-253-215-8782, 86546382360#
5. **Get Involved:** If you are interested in serving at church, we have several opportunities for you to do so.
 - a. Hospitality: Help serve our production team when they record on Sundays
 - b. Media: Are you a photographer, a writer, editor or graphic designer, sound engineer, we have an opportunity for you to volunteer your gifts and talents. Email info@aseattlechurch.com and Amanda will connect you with the right ministry leader.
6. **Share testimony** of how God is moving in your life/your group in this season? **HERE**
7. How can we **come alongside you** in more specific ways as a church? **Let us know.**
8. Have you been **baptized?** If that is your next step in repentance and faith, **let us know.**