

We Are in This Together

Elder Betty Vincent

"42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." ~ Acts 2:42-46 (NIV)

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." - Helen Keller

1. It is time for us to **unite** in Christ.

"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved." - Mattie Stepanek

2. **Support** each other in times of need.

"We cannot accomplish all that we need to do without working together." - Bill Richardson

3. Stand strong **together**.

"We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now." - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

IT'S A LOVE THING: THE CHURCH'S RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Elder Sonya Butts

"They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal and the prayers. Everyone around was in awe – all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met. They follow a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added to those who were saved." ~ Acts 2:42-47 (MSG)

1. The believers professed their love of God by showing their **COMMITMENT** to the faith.

"Only one who devotes himself to a cause with his whole strength and soul can be a true master. For this reason, mastery demands all of a person." – Albert Einstein

2. The believers validated their love for God through their **CONNECTION** to Him in prayer.

"The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays." – Soren Kierkegaard

"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?" – Corrie Ten Boom

3. The believers demonstrated their love for one another by **COMPASSION** for each other.

"True compassion means not only feeling another's pain but also being moved to help relieve it." - Daniel Goleman

He Has Given Us the Blueprint

Elder Kim Lewis

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A blueprint is defined as something that acts as a detailed plan, model providing guidance or a templet. The urban dictionary says when someone says "I'm the blueprint" they are saying they are the perfect example. They are perfection.

"A very well-built house started with a definite plan in the form of a blueprint"- Napoleon Hill

"And though the world is tearing up the blueprints of a society and family based on the moral laws of God. Fear not for the church has kept the negatives" Fulten Sheen

1. In order to be a spirit filled church we must be a **Bible studying** church. We must be steadfast and focused on the Word of God so that we are not swayed by false teaching.

2. Although Christianity involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, it is also a **corporate experience**.

"If we go to church just to be with one another, one another is all we will get. And it isn't enough. Eventually, our deepest unmet needs will explode in anger at one another. Putting community first destroys community. We must put Christ Himself first and keep Him first and treat Him as first and come to Him first and again and again." Roy Cortland

3. The act of Communion or Breaking of Bread celebrates the Gospel: Jesus was **broken** for us so that we can be **fixed** by Him.

4. **Jesus** was the best example of a life devoted to prayer. When we are devoted to prayer, we **reflect** Him.