

The Church You've Always Wanted!
Acts 2: 42-47

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1. Imagine what it would be like to be a part of a church where people's lives were being changed. The early church, as recorded in the Book of Acts, was a dynamic, growing church that turned the world upside down!
2. The secret of the impact of the early church upon the people can be found in just a few verses in the 2nd chapter of Acts.
3. This message is to encourage new believers to commit to the church. It is to encourage casual attenders to commit to the church. And, it is to encourage dedicated members to realize the joy of their commitment to the church.
4. With this in mind, let's examine several reasons this is the church you've always wanted.

I. A Church That Offers Public Affiliation. Acts 2: 38-39

- A These believers identified publicly through baptism.
 1. Our text is a description of the first great evangelistic crusade.
- B The word "baptized" comes from a word that means "to dip or immerse."
 1. **Rom.6:4; 2 Cor.5:17; 1 Pet 3:21; 1 Cor.12:13**
- C We identify publicly through membership.
 1. Note **v.41** again. As they were baptized, "**that day,**" that very same day these "**three thousand souls were added to them.**"

II. A Church That Offers Biblical Teaching. Acts 2: 42

- A After the 3000 were baptized and added to the church, what did they do next? **V.42** says, "**They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching.**"
- B What they were teaching was written down and now forms our NT.
 1. **1 Tim.3:15.**

III. A Church That Offers Christian Fellowship. Acts 2: 44-46

- A Not only did the early church members devote themselves to the apostles' teaching, but also in "fellowship."
- B Such fellowship is essential to spiritual growth.

IV. A Church That Offers Prayer. Acts 2: 47

- A **V.42** says they were devoted "to prayers."
- B There is a need in our church for people to commit themselves to prayer.

V. A Church That Offers Strategic Witness. Acts 2: 47

- A This church had gained the favor of all the people.
- B Imagine being an unbeliever and attending a service in a dead church.