

The Church Was Created For Community
Acts 2:42-47

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1. God has given us His Church which is the body of Christ on earth.
 - a. When one is baptized into Christ, one is baptized into the body of Christ. That person is baptized into a community of believers.
 - b. Through Christ we are bound together in a community of faith.
2. Our text this morning tells us that the very first community of believers gathered together on a regular basis for worship, prayer, study and fellowship. **Acts 2:44** says, **“all the believed were together.”**
 - b. It wasn't easy to follow Christ in the first century.
 - c. It also isn't easy to follow Christ even today.

I. The Church Is A Community.

- A. The church or a local community of believers is essential to our spiritual well-being.
 1. **Hebrews 10:25** **“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”**
- B. Luke informs us that **“all the believers were one in heart and mind.”**

II. The Church Is Where We Find Our Strength.

- A. As we face the inevitable trials, God intends that we be supported by our community.
 1. **Psalm 61:2, 5.**
- B. When the storms of life hit, we need to be standing close to other Christians.

III. The Church Is Intended For Ministry.

- A. The community of faith is the place where we find special opportunities to minister.
- B. The church's ministry included sharing material goods to meet earthly needs.
 1. **1 John 3:17-18** **“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.”**

IV. The Church Is Where We Receive Guidance.

- A. The community of believers is needed as a source of guidance.
 1. **Psalm 73:23-24**
 2. **Ephesians 3:10**
- B. Many ways of the world seem so enticing.
 1. **Hebrews 3:13**

V. The Church Is Where We Face Difficulties.

- A. Being in the community of faith has its difficulties and frustrations.
- B. There are times when we hurt each other and the tendency is to pull away.
 1. We have a tendency to go it alone. We must resist that tendency.
 2. **Ephesians 2:19**