

## **The Kind of Church You Need**

**Acts 2:37-47**

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- I. The Church Offers a Public Statement of Faith. Acts 2:37-39, “When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call.’”
  - A. We identify publicly with Christ through baptism.
    1. Romans 6:3-5
    2. 1 Peter 3:21
    3. Galatians 3:27
  - B. Then we identify publicly with each other as a body of believers.
  
- II. The Church Offers Biblical Teaching. Acts 2:42, “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching...”
  - A. What do you do when 3000 people are baptized and added to the church?
  - B. The church is the guardian and the teacher of biblical truth.
  
- III. The Church Offers Christian Fellowship. Acts 2:44-45, “All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.”
  - A. The early church members “devoted themselves to...fellowship.”
  - B. Such fellowship is essential to our spiritual growth.
    1. Hebrews 10:25
  
- IV. The Church Offers Prayer and Praise. Acts 2:46-47, “They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.”
  - A. V.42 says they were together “in prayer.” V.47 says they were “praising God.”
  - B. There is a need in our church for people to commit themselves to prayer.
    1. “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” James 5:16
  
- V. The Church Offers Opportunities to Give and Serve. Acts 2:45, “Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.”
  - A. The church is a place to use your gifts.
    1. “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Luke 6:38
  - B. V.47 says the believers in the early church were “having favor with all the people.”
    1. 1 Peter 2:9