

Date: January 11, 2026

Title: The Practices That Shape A Faithful Church

Passage: Acts 2:42-47

Summary:

Practices That Shape a Faithful Church

1. Committed to Christ (v.40-41)
2. Committed to God's Word (v.42)
3. Committed to life together (v.42,46)
4. Committed to remembering Christ regularly (v.42b)
5. Committed to prayer together (v.42b)
6. Committed to generous giving (v.44-45)
7. Committed to praising God and sharing the Gospel (v.47)

Key Truths :

- God's Word meets every need we have. We must recognize the deep value of God's Word.
- You need other people in your life. Be intentional in developing relationships with others. You will never grow without others.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- How do you value and treasure God's Word?
- Which of the practices have you been blessed by and why?
- Which of the practices do you feel God leading you to grow upon this coming year?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

Introduction

Lasting personal change

- requires a plan of action and accountability.

As a Christian, our goal is to grow to be more like Christ.

- If you fail to plan, then you are planning to fail.
- This passage outlines practices that shape a faithful church (and Christians)

Passage:

Acts 2:42-47

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs

were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

EXPOSITION

Context of Passage

Jesus had ascended to heaven.

- Christians, left alone by the Holy Spirit came together and were led to build the church.

Today, there are many churches.

- But how do I know which one to attend and what is a good one?

Practices That Shape a Faithful Church

1. Committed to Christ (v.40-41)

Acts 2:40-41

And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

those who received his word

- Those who committed to Christ
 - repented of sin

What is Repentance?

- Turning away from sin
 - acknowledge you are a sinner
- Turning away from sin and turning to God.

baptized,

- Committed to live differently than those around them.
 - identification with Jesus
- one who has directed their life to Jesus.

Misperceptions

- Adjust message to cater to non-Christians
 - Truth: focus on what God's Word alone says rather than adjust the message to the hearer.
- Practices are to gain something from God.
 - Truth: salvation is by faith by grace by Christ alone.
 - Practices are out of worship having been saved.

2. Committed to God's Word (v.42)

Acts 2:42a

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching...

Why God's Word?

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- God's Word meets every need we have.
 - We must recognize the deep value of God's Word.

1 Peter 2:2

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—

- Long for God's Word like milk

2 Timothy 4:2-5

preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

- God has revealed Himself in the Bible.
 - Don't depend upon only visual media.
 - God's Word alone is true.

Hosea 4:6

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

3. Committed to life together (v.42,46)

Acts 2:42a

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship...

Acts 2:46

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,

- Fellowship = Greek word (*koinōnia*)
 - Definition = partnership through a common cause
 - Common cause: growing in Christ

1 John 1:3

that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:5-7

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

- We must walk in the light with others.
 - We cannot have fellowship with God without fellowship with other believers.
- You need other people in your life. You need to allow people into your life.
 - Be intentional in developing relationships with others.
- Yes, relationships don't come naturally to be in a community.
 - But you will never grow without others.

4. Committed to remembering Christ regularly (v.42b)

Acts 2:42

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Breaking of bread

- Pointed to Communion
 - Done with purpose and regularly.
- Why Communion?
 - Recognize that all are equal and one in Christ.

- Calls for self-examination and purification of sins.
- Remind ourselves that we are saved under a new covenant and have new life in Christ.
- Remind our final destination is heaven. Our walk with God is not only the present but for the community to come.

1 Corinthians 11:23-29

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 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." 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." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

- examine your heart as contemplate Jesus' shed blood and sacrifice for you.

5. Committed to prayer together (v.42b)

Acts 2:42b

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

John 14:13-14

Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

- Jesus had commanded His disciples to pray and the disciples believed that.
- Misperception: prayer is discounted in our lives where infrequent.
 - Truth = you cannot grow in Christ without prayer to God.
 - Consider:
 - Pray more in your life.
 - Pray more with others

6. Committed to generous giving (v.44-45)

Acts 2:44-45

And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Misperception: This passage promotes socialism or communal living.

Context of Passage:

- For Pentecost, people who had traveled from afar.
 - Having become Christians, many chose to stay in Jerusalem to learn more about following Jesus.
- The Bible never commands that one is to sell all their possessions and live with others.
- Key Point: Sharing and giving is key to living for Christ.

Why give?

- Giving is how I can use what I have to bless others.
- All you have is given by God to be a steward of.
- God doesn't need your money. But you need His blessing.
- God will do with what you have given more than what you could have done while holding on to it.

Matthew 6:19-21

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- Consider giving as the first thing you do when receiving a paycheck or income.

7. Committed to praising God and sharing the Gospel (v.47)

Acts 2:47

praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

- Praise is reciting God and His attributes.
- Out of living a life of praise, people will be attracted to come.
- In salvation, God is always sovereign. Only He saves people through their hearts.

Self-Reflection

- Consider planning how you will respond to God.
- As a follower of Christ, make a plan in your commitments to Christ.
 - To God's Word
 - To others
 - To pray

- To sharing