

# THE TRUE CHURCH IS.....

**SCRIPTURE** - Acts 2:41–47 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. <sup>42</sup> And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. <sup>43</sup> Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, <sup>45</sup> and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. <sup>46</sup> So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

## INTRODUCTION

- A. Jesus built only one church - Matthew 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- B. We want to be the church Jesus built. We strive to follow the pattern of the New Testament church.

**I. A SUBMISSIVE CHURCH v 41** - Those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

- A. Luke 7:30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.
- B. In baptism, we submit totally to the will of God as well as to the person baptizing you.
- C. You put your faith in God's promise to forgive your sins and your faith in the person doing the baptism, that he will be able to get us back up. (examples)

**II. SCRIPTURAL CHURCH. v 42** - They continued in the Apostles Doctrine.

- A. 1 Timothy 1:3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine,
- B. Ephesians 4:11–15 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; <sup>14</sup> that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, <sup>15</sup> but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—
- C. 1 Timothy 4:13,16 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. .... <sup>16</sup> Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

**III. A SOCIABLE CHURCH v 42** – and in fellowship

- A. "Sharing in a common religious commitment and spiritual community"
  - 1. Sharing in breaking bread
  - 2. Sharing in prayers
- B. 1 John 1:3–7 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. <sup>5</sup> This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

**IV. A STUFFYING CHURCH vs 43** - Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles

- A. "Making a strong impression on (someone) with something unexpected"
- B. NASB95 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe;
- C. Jude 12 These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;
- D. 2 Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

**V. A SHARING CHURCH v 44** - Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

- A. "Were together"...united by a
  - 1. Common Faith - "Believed"
  - 2. Cherished Fellowship - "Together"
  - 3. Community of Finance - "All things in common"
- B. 1 John 3:16–17 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. <sup>17</sup> But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?
- C. Acts 4:32 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.

**VI. A SACRIFICIAL CHURCH v 45a** - and sold their possessions and goods,

- A. "...Sold their possessions..."
- B. Acts 4:32–37 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. <sup>33</sup> And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, <sup>35</sup> and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need. <sup>36</sup> And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, <sup>37</sup> having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.
- C. Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

**VII. A SERVING CHURCH v 45b** - and divided them among all, as anyone had need

- A. Ephesians 4:28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.
- B. 1 John 3:17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?
- C. James 2:15-17 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? <sup>17</sup> Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

**VIII. A SAME-MINDED CHURCH v 46a** - So continuing daily with one accord in the temple

- A. Romans 15:5–6 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. Philippians 2:1–2 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, <sup>2</sup> fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.
- C. 1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

**IX. A SIMPLE CHURCH v 46b** - and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart

- A. A Family
  - 1. 1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
  - 2. Ephesians 3:14–15 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,
- B. A Body
  - 1. 1 Corinthians 12:12–14 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. <sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> For in fact the body is not one member but many.
  - 2. Ephesians 4:16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

**X. A SOUL WINNING CHURCH v 47** - And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

- A. Matthew 28:19–20 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.
- B. Jude 22–23 And on some have compassion, making a distinction; <sup>23</sup> but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

**CONCLUSION – ARE YOU DOING YOUR PART TO MAKE THIS THE TRUE CHURCH?**

- A. Have you submitted to the will of God in baptism?
- B. Are you following the Apostle’s doctrine (teaching)?
- C. Do you take every opportunity to fellowship with the church?
- D. Are you in awe of the power of God?
- E. Are you willing to share what you have with others in need?
- F. Are you willing to sacrifice to help others?
- G. Are you willing to serve others?
- H. Are you doing what you can to be same-minded with others?
- I. Are you willing to simply be a part of the family and body of Christ?
- J. Are you reaching out to others with the gospel?