

Acts of Jesus, Lesson 9: A Spirit Filled Church Part 2

- The last time we began to look at the practices of the truly orthodox, fundamental, reformed, Spirit filled church here in the book of Acts.
- I told you that the overriding character trait of the first church was the practice of community.
- It would be difficult for us to overstate this practice and principal of community
 1. God Himself is community.
 2. God created community in the old and new creations.
 3. Jesus stated that the most convincing proof of the truth of gospel is the perceptible oneness of His followers: "that they may be made perfect in one, that the world might know that You have sent Me."
 4. The 10 commandments are nothing more than 10 rules on community: the first 4 deal with man's community with God and the last 6 deal with man's community with man.
 5. The Lord's prayer is a community prayer: "OUR Father..."
 6. Heaven is going to be extreme community: **Jn. 14:2** "Rooms" in one house!!
 7. What is the bare minimum number that Jesus requires for His special presence? "Where ____ or more are gathered...."

1. **Difficult to overstate the importance practice of community for the N.T. church; therefore, it is alarming to see the trends towards less and less community within the modern church.**

- We bring the world's mindset into our churches.
- We see ourselves as consumers looking for a product which is a far cry from the oneness and community Jesus intended.
- We also suffer from a pervading mindset that is present among more and more believers here in America, namely, "**All I need is God.**"
- It sounds like good theology until you read the fine print written in the mentality that goes with it: "**I don't need anyone else.**"
- The result is come-and-go church attendance and this noncommittal philosophy that is on the increase among us.
- "**All I need is God**" – Adam may have felt that way but God said that his being alone was not good. It was not good for Adam and it is not good for us.

We need others. We need to know and be known. We need community.

2. **Pay careful attention to the way the early church operated: Acts 2:42-end.**

- Scripture is quite clear: church was never intended to be a spoke on the wheel of the activity in our lives, church was intended to be the hub—the very center of one's life.
- Look carefully at the things the early church did here in V. 42: what we are doing here now covers essentially the first one.
 - I'm not an apostle but I am preaching to you from the book that the apostles wrote.
 - To be underneath the preaching and teaching of this kind is absolutely essential part of the practice of a N.T. church.

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But this is only one of the practices of this truly right church: again the tendency is to think that if we are attending worship that we are having church==**this simply isn't true.**

- Community doesn't happen here or at least not fully and without community we can't call it church.
- This is church: **Eph. 4:16**
- Church is not a spectator's sport instead the picture is of a Body in which every part is doing the part it was gifted to do.
- If the majority of your body parts were spectators, what would we call you?
Paralyzed!!!

3. We have to be together more than this. We have to be involved in each other's lives.

- Notice in addition to what we call "church" they were much more involved and together:
- **V. 42** -- "steadfastly" applies to all the components here.
 1. Fellowship = koinonia – **VV. 44-46a** "daily" they were together and involved in each other's lives.
 2. Breaking of Bread = code term for what we call the "Lord's supper"
 - Notice where they had the Lord's supper: "house to house" not to say that they didn't have it in a congregational setting.
 - Notice how often they had it: "daily"