

Acts 2:42 – 47: A Model for Today's Church

The Characteristics of the New Testament church

(1) Devoted to the APOSTLE'S TEACHING

-- How could today's church **not** follow this model?

-- Hebrews 6:1-2

* repentance

* faith

* baptism

* laying on of hands

* resurrection

* eternal judgment

(2) FELLOWSHIP

-- Bob Coy's definition: Eating nachos together is NOT fellowship ... it's just eating nachos!

True fellowship: *koinonia* – Prob. 27:17

Q: How can we as a church grow in this area?

(3) BREAKING OF BREAD

> Refers to COMMUNION – obeying Jesus' instructions at the last supper – 1 Cor. 11:23-25)

> see v.46 –refers to eating meals together (in contrast with this “breaking of bread”)

(4) PRAYERS

Q: What constitutes a “praying” church? **Praying individuals? Corporate Prayer? Both?**

-- Demonstrates the early church's DEPENDENCE upon God – not man!

(5) Sense of AWE

> NKJV – “FEAR”

(6) SIGNS & WONDERS

Q: Why don't we see more signs and wonders?

(7) UNITY

(8) SHARING OF POSSESSIONS and FINANCES

Q: Isn't this communistic? NO – “forced” sharing is communism.

Q: Do we do this? YES – special offerings, benevolence, personal acts (vehicles given away), etc.

(9) Meeting in the TEMPLE

> Significance:

(10) PRAISING GOD

(11) GROWTH – our goal!

> What is the evangelistic method of the early church? The LORD added to the church daily ...

> Key: It's not in programs (good or bad) but in the church being the church that draws people!