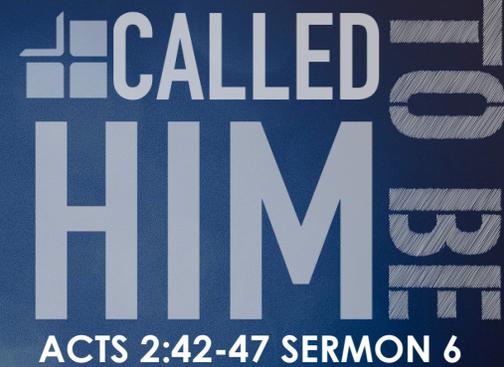


# What Kind of Church Does God Want?

ACTS 2:42-47 – SERMON 6

SMALL GROUP GUIDE



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## 1. What are some valuable lessons that we at Cornerstone could learn from the Church in Acts 2?

On a scale from one to ten, one being **almost never**, and ten being **nearly always**, how would you rate Cornerstone in each of the 13 areas in today's passage?

On the same scale, how would you rate yourself as an individual believer in each of these areas?

## 2. Verse 42 says that the believers were devoted to the Koinonia, translated as *the fellowship*.

*The Koinonia* literally means, "the sharing together". This indicates that they each contributed something to the larger group.

What would God say brings our fellowship together through you?

How does the *sharing together* here at Cornerstone bless you?

## 3. Verse 46 says that they had sincere hearts. Literally, this means that their hearts were simple, uncomplicated, and easily pleased.

How "simple" is your own heart? In other words, how difficult is it for you to be at peace.

Do you find yourself concerned or critical of things that occupy your mind and keep you from being content and at peace with others?

## What Kind of Church Does God Want?

- 1) **Committed** v.42 continually devoting themselves
- 2) **Teachable** v.42 ...to the Apostles teaching
- 3) **Fellowshipping** v.42 ... fellowship... breaking of bread
- 4) **Praying** v.42 ... and to prayer.
- 5) **Respectful** v.43 a sense of awe
- 6) **Powerful** v.43 wonders and signs
- 7) **Intimate** v.44 and had all things in common
- 8) **Generous** v.45 selling their property
- 9) **Joyful** v.46 with gladness
- 10) **Peaceful** v.46 sincerity of heart
- 11) **Worshipping** v.47 praising God
- 12) **Welcoming** v.47 favor with all the people
- 13) **Growing** v.47 the Lord added

## Acts 2

**42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.**

**breaking bread...** was simply eating their meals together. This is a beautiful description of them enjoying their new relationship with each other and with God. Simple things like eating a meal can be a wonderful experience when people share the joy of knowing the Lord.

**to prayer...** literally to "the prayers". This may have been some formal prayers carried over from their Jewish style of worship.

**43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.**

**a sense of awe...** the Greek word for "awe" is **phobos**, and actually means a sense of reverent fear. They entertained no casual understanding of God. They knew that even though He had drawn near to them by filling them with His Spirit that was not to be taken flippantly.

**44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;**

**together...** being together was important to the ones who had believed. Any notion that the gathering of the redeemed was optional was foreign to their thinking. Physically being with other believers was vital.

**had all things in common...** was voluntary and compelled only by their love for one another. Selfish individualism or sparing generosity were not to be found among the saints.

**45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.**

**selling their property and possessions and sharing them...** is certain to sound strange to most. They did not limit their giving to whatever they may have had in abundance, but rather they liquidated personal property and living essentials in order to see that no one among them went without.

Such freedom to share at such a reckless measure is rarely seen in the modern Church. Perhaps for fear that someone would surely take advantage of such generosity. However, discipline and confrontation were also present in the Early Church and deceivers were exposed. (Acts 5)

**46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,**

**Day by day...** is literally "every day" they were committed to practical expressions of their common life.

**in the temple...** was the place for their large gatherings. They also met for meals together from **house to house**. So we know that both large and small gatherings were important for them as they sought constant exposure to the Apostles' teaching.

**sincerity of heart...** "**apheloteti**" actually means **simplicity** of heart and is only found here in the Greek New Testament. A heart that is not overly occupied with needs for validation, recognition, etc., will know **gladness**.

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

**favor with all people...** diverse groups of people from a variety of cultures can enjoy sweet fellowship and love if their hearts remain simple and their **praise** is to God.