

Adult Sunday School Class 3/6/2022

Characteristics of the Early Church

- 42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.
44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common.
45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.
46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,
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.

Acts 2:42–47 ESV

1) It was a learning church. Verse 42

- 15 I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.
16 I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

Psalm 119:15–16

What are ways we practice this?

What are suggestions for how we could do it more or better?

2) It was a church of fellowship. Verse 42

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32

What are ways we practice this?

What are suggestions for how we could do it more or better?

3) It was a praying church dependent on God. Verse 42

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

What are ways we practice this?

What are suggestions for how we could do it more or better?

4) It was a church filled with a sense of reverence & awe. Verse 43

Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21

What are ways we practice this?

What are suggestions for how we could do it more or better?

5) It was a sharing family. Verses 44-46

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1 Peter 4:10

What are ways we practice this?

What are suggestions for how we could do it more or better?

6) It was a worshipping church. Verses 46-47

not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:25

What are ways we practice this

What are suggestions for how we could do it more or better?

7) It was a pillar of the community. Verse 47

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16

What are ways we practice this?

What are suggestions for how we could do it more or better?

8) It was a multiplying church. Verse 47

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

What are ways we practice this?

What are suggestions for how we could do it more or better?