

THE PATTERN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

Acts 2:42-47

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INTRO:

1. Anatomy of the human **body**
2. Anatomy of the new **community**

A. IT IS A **GROUND**ED CHURCH (Acts 2:42)

1. Grounded in **teaching** (v. 42a)
2. Grounded in **fellowship** (v. 42b)
3. Grounded in **prayer** (v. 42c)

B. IT IS A **GODLY** CHURCH (Acts 2:43)

1. The **requirement** of godliness (v. 43a)
2. The **result** of godliness (v. 43b)

C. IT IS A **GIVING** CHURCH (Acts 2:44-45)

1. **Everyone** was giving (v. 44)
2. **Everything** was given (v. 44-45)

D. IT IS A **GATHERING** CHURCH (Acts 2:46)

1. The gathering in the **temple** (v. 46a)
2. The gathering in the **houses** (v. 47b)

E. IT IS A **GROWING** CHURCH (Acts 2:46-47)

1. **Christian** growth (v. 46)
2. **Community** growth (v. 47)

CONCLUSION

Tabletalk Questions

Overview

Today's session will look at a passage in Acts 2 that helps us understand the values and the purpose of the Early Church. Everything they did was to fulfill God's mission. In his book, *The Mission of God*, Christopher Wright shares, "It is not so much the case that God has a mission for his church in the world but that God has a church for his mission in the world. Mission was not made for the church; the church was made for mission—God's mission." This team—the Early Church—was completely committed to God's mission. And that commitment should continue in us today!

1. What comes to mind when you think about church?

2. **Read** Acts 2:42–43

- * The Early Church was devoted to teaching, community, and prayer. Which of the three are you most active in and why?
- * Give an example of how the combination of biblical teaching, meaningful community, and spiritual disciplines has helped you grow in your faith.

3. **Read** Acts 2:44–45

- * What do you think about these actions? Should we see more of this in the church today? Why or why not?
- * Why should the gospel make us a generous people? In other words, how does the gospel set us free from being enslaved to money and material possessions?

4. **Read** Acts 2:46–47

- * Is what you privately confess and believe in alignment with how you display your faith publicly? Why does this matter?
- * How has living out your faith caused you to enjoy "the goodwill of all people?"