

**Church Membership:
Is It Really That Important?
February 5, 2017
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Acts 2:42-47

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. ⁴³A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—⁴⁷all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. (NLT)

I. Unified in _____.

- A. _____.
- B. _____.
- C. _____.
- D. _____.

II. Unified in _____.

- A. _____.
- B. _____: Develop authentic followers of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (NLT)

Matthew 22:37-39

Jesus replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' (NLT)

C. _____.

- 1. _____.
- 2. _____.
- 3. _____.

- a. Serve in a _____.
- b. Serve in a _____.

Acts 2:41

Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. (NLT)

III. Unified in _____.

IV. Results of _____.

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Small Group Questions**

*You do NOT have to answer or discuss every question. Feel free to just pick a few. These are meant to guide you in truth. If you are having trouble answering a question, ask your small group leader to help you. They are committed to helping you develop as an authentic follower of Christ.

The COMMUNITY:

1. How has the Gospel transformed your ideas about being in community with others?

Into the WORD/APPLICATION:

Here are some suggested sites in order to dive deeper into God's Word: blueletterbible.org, desiringgod.org/articles/all, biblos.com, ccel.org, logos.com, connect.ligonier.org, thegospelcoalition.org/channel/bible-and-theology.

2. Read Acts 2:42-47

- a. The Bible assumes we are living together in community (see this past week's Approaching Sunday blog). How are you staying connected with other believers on a regular basis? Why is this important to you?
- b. The early church shared most meals together (verse 42). How does sharing meals together, and remembering Jesus with every meal, bring the Gospel into your daily life?

- c. Do you find praying with others (verse 42) uncomfortable or awkward? If not, share how you overcame those initial feelings. If so, maybe you are overthinking it – how can you find ways and create spaces where praying with others can become natural?

- d. Pastor Shaun talked about Connect, Grow, and Serve. In what ways has God wired you to connect, grow, and serve? How are you currently seeing these things in your life? In what ways can “life” keep you from doing these things?

3. Read Matthew 28:18-20 & 22:37-39 (for the next two questions):

- a. The word “go” could also be translated “as you are going”. Often, we feel like we must go to a faraway land to truly “go”, but that's not what this verse is saying. It's talking about in your everyday life – as you are going – allowing the Gospel to overflow from you to those around you. What would this look like in your everyday life?
- b. Every command of God comes with a promise of God. Whatever God commands He has already done for you to and in you. If He commands you to love Him, it's because He already unconditionally loves you and has filled you with that same love. How does this change the way you view the commands of God?