

Question: How does Jesus provide the growth of the body (His Church)?

Answer: (Ephesians 4:15-16) _____

Question: How do the members continue church-growth?

Answer: (Acts 2:42) Each member must maintain personal devotion to God and maturation.

I. Devoted to the “apostles’ doctrine;” L _____ of G _____.

A. John 14:26, 16: 8-9; 12-13. _____

B. This is the work the Holy Spirit was accomplishing through the apostles.

C. They were devoted because of F _____. Acts 2:43 _____

D. Members realized what they were spared from. Acts 2:37.
“They feared God, (obeyed) so they didn’t have to fear God (be punished).”

E. They were devoted to God’s Word.

II. “Fellowship”: Devoted to L _____ like G _____.

A. Consider Faithfulness in terms of relationships. (Acts 20:28). _____

B. Christ’s church is the redeemed community that unites everyone within in it. (Acts 2:44-47)

C. Too often, the church reflects more of the world than of Christ.

III. “The breaking of bread”: Devoted to G _____’s G _____.

A. Rom.14:17, Acts 2:42, + I Cor.10:16, Acts 20:7; I Cor.11:20; 16:2). _____

B. This is what Lord’s Supper should always remind us of. _____

C. Christians need frequent reminding of this to grow as they did. (John 3:16). _____

IV. “Prayer”: Devoted to God’s P _____.

A. To better understand Acts 1:14; 3:1; 6:4, let’s notice a few examples.

1. Acts 4:23-31. _____
2. Acts 12:5. _____

B. Being “devoted to prayer” means being dependent on God. (cf. Ephesians 6:12-13, 18).

C. There is no growth apart from the hand of the Lord. Acts 11:21.

Conclusion: God gives increase to those who follow the blueprint.

Be blessed by this related article by Justin Guin as provided in an older bulletin from the Double Springs congregation in Double Springs Alabama.

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"Study to show thyself approved unto God. . . . II Timothy 2:15

What Can We Learn from the First Portrait of the Church?

By Justin Guin

Following the first gospel sermon, three thousand people obey the gospel (2:41). In Acts 2:42-47, Luke paints a beautiful portrait of the infant church as they learn, fellowship, serve, and evangelize together. Notice some lessons we learn from their example.

It is a Learning Church (2:42). The church continually devoted themselves to the apostles' "teaching." The apostles relied on the Holy Spirit to guide them into all truth as they began to teach the gospel.

It is a Relational Church (2:42). The church continually devoted themselves to "fellowship." The church is about sharing your life, struggles, and successes with other Christians. In the beginning, they were concerned about relationships. Our relationship is rooted in our relationship with God and his Son (1 Cor. 1:9).

It is a Praying Church (2:42). The church continually devoted themselves to prayer. Prayer is time spent in worship, intercession, thanksgiving, and spiritual growth. It was no one-time event but

something regularly done. In Acts, the church consistently gave themselves to prayer. It was part of the apostolic ministry (6:4).

It is a Reverent Church (2:43).

"Awe" is a profound respect for God that motivates you to obedience. Fearing the Lord produces growth for the church. It is a Sharing Church (2:44-45)- The church had "all things in common" (v. 44). They shared everything and were willing to sacrifice for others (vv. 45-46). This became a common practice in the church (cf. Acts 4:32-37). They radically valued people over possessions. The imperfect tense of the verbs in v. 45 shows it to be a continuous, regular practice cf. Luke 12:33-34.

It is a Soul Conscious Church

(2:47b). Acts 2 ends with "the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." How does the Lord add to the number? It is through preaching the gospel (cf. Matt. 28:19-20). This is illustrated in Acts 2:14-41. The first-century church couldn't help but preach the gospel to the point souls were added daily.