



The model of a congregation's strength and life is found in the Jerusalem church following the day of Pentecost. So, let's now ask: what is the key difference between a weak, dying congregation and a strong, living congregation?

U_____. (Acts 4:32).

Let's consider this "o____ h____ and s____" in Jerusalem.

I. They Were Part of S____ B____ Than T_____.

- A. 3000+ souls were being directed by (the Lord's) one heart and soul.
 - B. In contrast to individualism, Jerusalem saints viewed Jesus as the Savior of the body. (Eph. 5:23). _____
 - C. Church membership is NOT like being a member of a club.
 - D. Biblical body-membership changes everything! (Rom.12:4-5, I Cor.12:12-13)
 - E. Christians actively yield to the mind/will of Christ, who is Head of His body.
- _____
- _____
- _____

II. The Benefit of the B____ was P_____.

- A. Consider their care & compassion for one another. (Acts 4:32; 5:4)
 - B. Personal sacrifice was made to benefit (all members within) the body.
 - C. Consider Paul's example: Phil.1:21-24.
 - D. Consider the greatest example of Jesus: Phil.2:3-8.
- _____
- _____
- _____

III. Each Viewed Their P____ G____ As S_____.

- A. Individual goals must often be omitted for sake of unity.
 - B. Prior personal investments and goals change upon body-membership.
 - C. Key check-points for balance: (Galatians 6.1-10, I Timothy 5:8).
 - D. When the local body is unified, Jesus' goals for the body become primary.
- _____
- _____
- _____

IV. Their B _____ Were O _____ By Unity In Christ.

A. The Jerusalem congregation began with people of numerous backgrounds and even combative cultural views. (**Acts 2:9-11; 6:1-6**) Walls of worldly hostilities are torn down as one becomes a member of Christ's Body!

B. Unity in Christ overshadows diversity in backgrounds. (Consider Barnabas).

C. Col. 3:11. In the church of ***one heart and soul***, we don't see anything that would divide those thinking like the lost world.

D. If Jesus could bring together Matthew, a tax collector, and Simon, a Zealot, He can bring together anyone in Rome, GA. who comes to Christ.

V. Their unity I _____ to the doctrine of the risen Jesus.

A. Consider the context of **Acts 4:33**. _____

B. Their *testimony* was part of this *unity*. Their *unity* supported their *testimony*.

C. The "*one heart and soul*" must be emphasized, embraced and enacted for it all to work. (**John 17:20-21**) _____

D. The issue of "*one heart and soul*" is about testifying Christ to the world. Unity matters because Christ matters.

Conclusion:

As members of the divine body of Jesus, we must learn to march to the beat "one heart" (the heart of Jesus). Only then can we have the foundation the Lord will bless with growth in every positive way.