

The Church on the Move: Doing Church

Acts 2:42-47 || Pastor Paul Hahn || 19 June 2022

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: Would you rather go to bed early and wake up early, or go to bed late and sleep in? Why?

Worship: [Psalm 24](#) (*Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation?*)

Sermon Summary for [Acts 2:42-47](#) (*Read aloud before reading the sermon summary.*)

What does it mean to be a healthy church? What is the church supposed to be? After Christ's ascension, the Holy Spirit was poured into the church. In the days after Pentecost, we can see and learn the basics of "doing church." And as we take these practices to heart, we will become more fruitful in our praise and witness of our Lord.

[A Devoted Church to Jesus](#) (v42) // All of us have identity issues as we struggle to know who we are and what we are meant for. It's an issue of devotion; we seek answers for what's foundational to who we are and what we should commit our lives to. To be devoted to God's mission and church, means being given over to God's purposes. It involves dying to our old existence, allowing ourselves to be repurposed and reshaped for God's glory. The holy fire of the Spirit consumes us, to be recast as the living stones of God's church. There is a singularity about this devotion. Life in the Kingdom cannot be ancillary or supplemental. We are children of our Heavenly Father, who lavishes His love on us. This brings clarity and everlasting substance to our identity.

[Devotion through the Means of Grace](#) // How are we devoted to Christ's church? We see these means of grace laid out by the early church. These avenues of devotion allow us to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit:

[Devotion to the Apostles Teaching](#) // This is God's Holy Scripture given to us, passed through the apostles and the prophets before them ([Eph 2:19-22](#)). It's foundational to our union with Christ; as Larry Woiwode wrote, "*It was scripture that remained with me all those years and scripture that eventually called me back to the church... and it is scripture that has the power to break apart every deathly, cyclical activity that we have the power to devise, and to make life whole again, because scripture embodies Christ.*"

[Devoted to the Common \(Shared\) Life](#) // What Pentecost reveals is that we are being renewed, remade, being readied to share to the fullest extent of our capacities in the life and love of God. As we more deeply discover that we have all we need in and from God, we can freely share with each other to meet the needs of those around us in the body of Christ. This enables us to fully know each other, delight in each other, share with each other, give honor and preference to each other.

[Devotion to the Breaking of the Bread](#) // This involves two kinds of meals: the breaking of bread as Christ instructed (communion), as well as the fellowship of breaking of bread in each other's homes. "They received their meals with glad and generous hearts" (v46). Something happens in these meals that changes believers, making us generous, that fills us so deeply that we cannot help but share.

[Devoted to the Prayers](#) // God has ordained that our prayers will unlock His movement in the world and the unfolding of His Kingdom. Our prayers change things, and they change us. For as we gather in prayer, our wills are reshaped to Christ's will. The Spirit – who searches the very mind of God, who can pray for us with groaning too deep for words when necessary – teaches us the mind of Christ.

A Devoted Church to Jesus, through the Means of Grace, yielding Beautiful Fruit // A devoted church is a beautiful, refreshing reflection of our loving God: broken people united in a Savior who was broken for them. Uniquely different and called to God's Kingdom but One in Jesus. For in Him, we can yield beautiful fruit and pour out His lovingkindness into the world.

Discussion Questions (*You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.*)

A Devoted Church to Jesus

- What in your life would you say you are devoted to? Does how you spend your time agree with this?
- What happens when God works in these first believers both individually and collectively?
 - How does God work in and through a church today?
 - How would you describe a church that is flourishing?

Devotion through the Means of Grace

- Devotion to the Apostles' Teaching:
 - How and why is the Bible foundational to our union with Christ?
 - We often think of reading the Bible as an individual act, but this context speaks of it as core to the health of the church. What does devotion to God's word look like corporately, as the church body?
- Devotion to the Common Life:
 - Have you ever been part of a community experiencing "shared life"? Describe the experience.
 - Read [2 Cor 8:9-15](#). What would it look like for your CG to be a place where needs were met, where you delighted in and honored one another? What steps could you take in that direction?
- Devotion to the Breaking of the Bread:
 - Why is devotion to the Holy Supper / Communion vital to our life as a church?
 - Why is devotion to sharing meals in fellowship vital to our life as a church?
- Devotion to the Prayers:
 - What does it look like to pray with boldness?
 - What makes corporate prayer unique and powerful?

A Devoted Church to Jesus, through the Means of Grace, yielding Beautiful Fruit

- If a church is a collection of broken individuals, what does it look like for a church to be united?
- What does it look like for a church to yield beautiful fruit?

Prayer

For this week's Prayer Guide for personal or group use, click [HERE](#).

Engage & Experience: Prayer & Gratitude

How have you grown in your prayer life this year? What role does gratitude have in your prayers? When have you been blessed by the prayers of others on your behalf? Take some time to reflect on what you may have learned about prayer this year and where you would still like to grow. Share with your group and leader(s).

Leaders: Please give pertinent feedback to the CG Team at community@pacificcrossroads.org.