

The Church at Its Best

Acts 2:42



Jeremy McQuoid

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Introduction

Many Christians say that we need to return to the early church if we want our churches today to be healthy. Acts 2:42 is a summary verse that teaches us the kind of priorities the early church devoted themselves to, which made them such a powerful vehicle for the Holy Spirit. How does Grandview match up today? With all the things we could be doing as a church, what do we need to devote ourselves to in order to become a vehicle for the Spirit's power?

What makes for a healthy church? The first Christians devoted themselves to:

1. Bible teaching

2. Fellowship

3. The cross

4. Prayer

Notes

Questions to Ponder

1. Why do you attend Grandview? What are you looking for in a church that you find at Grandview?
2. When we are told that they "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching", who were the apostles, and what do you think they were teaching?
3. Read Ephesians 4:14. What happens when a church moves away from Bible teaching? How can we guard against that happening?
4. Read 1 Cor. 1:9, Phil. 1:5, 1 John 1:3 and Romans 15:26. In each verse, the Greek word for "fellowship" appears (*koinwnia*). What do these verses teach about fellowship, and how do they differ from our normal understanding of fellowship?
5. The "breaking of bread" refers to both eating together and sharing in the Lord's Supper. Why is sharing in the Lord's Supper regularly so important, and how can we reflect in our lives that we are "cross-centred" disciples?
6. The prayer the first Christians devoted themselves to was corporate as much as individual. What hinders us from praying with other Christians, and how can we devote ourselves more to corporate prayer?