

# “The Attitude of a Healthy Church/Christian”

## Acts 2:40-47

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*Question:* Can I be a Christian without joining the church?

*Answer:* Yes, it is possible. It is something like being:

- A student who will not go to school.
- A soldier who will not join an army.
- A citizen who does not pay taxes or vote.
- A salesman with no customers.
- An explorer with no base camp.
- A seaman on a ship without a crew.
- A businessman on a deserted island.
- An author without readers.
- A tuba player without an orchestra.
- A parent without a family.
- A football player without a team.
- A politician who is a hermit.
- A scientist who does not share his findings.
- A bee without a hive.

**Acts 2:40-41** “And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about *three thousand souls were added to them.*”

- Those who **gladly** received his word - *joyfully, readily, willingly*

## Attitude toward the ‘Word’

**Acts 2:42** “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine...”

- *Your attitude toward the Bible is a reflection of your attitude toward Jesus.*
  - Jesus IS the WORD!
  - **John 1:1-5** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.”

- **John 1:14** <sup>“14</sup> And the **Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”
- You can't 'FOLLOW' Jesus if you don't know where He went or where He's going.
  - **Luke 9:23** “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”
- *Continued* – They made it a priority
- *Steadfastly* – to persevere, be constantly diligent
- *They received it, retained it, and acted on its principles.*
  - **2 Peter 1:5-8** <sup>“5</sup> But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, <sup>6</sup> to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, <sup>7</sup> to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. <sup>8</sup> For if these things are yours and abound, *you will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
  - **1 Timothy 1:3-4** <sup>“3</sup> I urged you when I went into Macedonia — remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other **doctrine**, <sup>4</sup> nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.”
  - **1 Timothy 4:13-16** <sup>“13</sup> Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to **doctrine**. <sup>14</sup> Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. <sup>15</sup> Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. <sup>16</sup> Take heed to yourself and to the **doctrine**. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”

## Attitude toward 'Fellowship'

**Acts 2:42** “...and fellowship,...”

- *Fellowship* – koinonia – to communicate, be in association with on an intimate level.
  - **1 John 1:1-4** <sup>“1</sup> That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life — <sup>2</sup> the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us — <sup>3</sup> that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that *you also may have fellowship with us*; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.”

- *What breaks fellowship –*
  - **1 John 1:6-7** <sup>“6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”
  - **Ephesians 5:8-12** <sup>“8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), <sup>10</sup> finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.”
- *The importance of fellowship –*
  - **Hebrews 10:24-25** <sup>“24</sup> And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

## Attitude toward ‘Communion’

**Acts 2:42** “...in the breaking of bread,...”

- **1 Corinthians 11:17-22** <sup>“17</sup> Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. <sup>18</sup> For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. <sup>19</sup> For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you. <sup>20</sup> Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. <sup>21</sup> For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk. <sup>22</sup> What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.”

## Attitude toward ‘Prayer’

**Acts 2:42** “...and in prayers.”

- Prayer because they recognized their need and Who supplied it!
  - **Acts 1:14** “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”
  - **Acts 6:4** “...we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”
  - **Ephesians 6:18** “...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”
  - **Philippians 4:6-7** <sup>“6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to

God; <sup>7</sup> and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

## Attitude in Reverence

**Acts 2:43** “Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.”

- *Fear* – profound respect or awe
  - **Acts 9:31** “Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And *walking in the fear of the Lord* and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.”
  - **Acts 19:16-18** “<sup>16</sup> Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. <sup>17</sup> This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and *fear fell on them all*, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.”
  - **Psalms 19:9** “*The fear of the Lord is clean*, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
  - **Psalms 111:10** “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom*”
  - **Proverbs 1:7** “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge*, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.
  - **Proverbs 8:13** “*The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way.*”
  - **Proverbs 14:27** “*The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life*, to turn one away from the snares of death.
  - **Isaiah 33:6** “*The fear of the Lord is His treasure.*”

## Attitude toward ‘What They Had’

**Acts 2:44-47** “<sup>44</sup> Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, <sup>45</sup> and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. <sup>46</sup> So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

- They considered ‘Others’ well being before their own creature comforts.
  - **Philippians 2:1-4** “Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, <sup>2</sup> fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. <sup>3</sup> *Let* nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

- **John 13:34** <sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

## **The church was**

- *Unified* (Acts 2:44)
  - *They were ONE*
- *Magnified* (Acts 2:47a)
  - *They Lifted God HIGH*
- *Multiplied* (Acts 2:47b)
  - *The LORD added daily those that were being saved*

*When a church does what it's supposed to, people get saved and grow!*

I think that I shall never see  
A Church that's all it ought to be:  
A Church whose members never stray  
Beyond the Straight and Narrow Way:  
A Church that has no empty pews,  
Whose Pastor never has the blues,  
A Church whose Deacons always deak,  
And none is proud, and all are meek:  
Where gossips never peddle lies,  
Or make complaints or criticize;  
Where all are always sweet and kind,  
And all to other's faults are blind.  
Such perfect Churches there may be,  
But none of them are known to me.  
But still, we'll work, and pray and plan,  
To make our own the best we can.