



Acts 1-11 Sermon Series
To Be Used: Session 3: Unified
Potential Sermon Title: The Unified Mission
Passage: Acts 2:41-47

Connection to Passage

This section of Acts provides the first descriptive summary, or framework, for the unified life of the local church. In this passage, we witness a number of activities characteristic of the earliest church; these are activities that should still be characteristic of the church today.

Introduction/Opening

There are plenty of interest groups and clubs around (car clubs, game gatherings, fantasy leagues, etc.). These communities of people have unity around a common interest. But usually, their common life does not stretch beyond these areas of particular interest. The church is the only community on earth that is unified by something (the gospel) that has implications on every area of life. The church is the only community that is unified by the power of God.

Outline

1. The Spirit Creates a Church (2:41-42)

- a. Because of the amazing work of God through the proclamation of the gospel, 3,000 converts were added to the initial body of 120 believers. The first thing we notice is that if we are faithful to biblical teaching, sharing life, and prayer, then God will grant fruitfulness.
- b. As we are faithful in this biblical model of church life, the Spirit will work through us and create a fruitful church atmosphere. This does not require gimmicks or slick programs. Acts 2:42 provides a glimpse into the framework of the early church life.

2. The Spirit Unifies a Church (2:43-47a)

- a. As the church was faithful, they stood in awe as God worked miraculously among them. These miracles served as signs of the Spirit's power and presence with them. This reminds us that the fruit of ministry comes not from our power but by the power of God.
- b. When the Spirit is moving, the church often loosens its grip on earthly resources and uses them to advance God's mission by meeting the needs of others. The unity of a Spirit-empowered community often feeds gospel growth.

3. The Spirit Grows a Church (2:47b)

- a. When the church is on mission with God, they often find favor with all people. There is something magnetic about a community of people consumed by a mission bigger than itself. In fact, these kinds of people often lose themselves in the mission and find others doing the same.
- b. When God is at work through a Spirit-empowered church, the church naturally worships God in thankfulness. When the church congregation sees their work as the Lord working through them, it is a humbling experience. God can use a community of faithful but broken people in an unbelievable way.

Conclusion

The gospel is not only the foundation of the church but also impacts the entire life of the church. The bond of the Spirit has implications on every single area of our lives. In this sense, the church is unique compared to all other communities or associations. Once again, the church is not created through our power but through the power of the Spirit. The Spirit creates, sustains, and grows the church.

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