

COMMITMENT TO A LOCAL CHURCH KINGDOM COME SERIES: A STUDY OF ACTS 1&2

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Sunday, February 10

TEXT: Acts 2:40-42 “And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation.’⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*.⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

Intro: Acceleration of my growth in Jesus began when I had consistent fellowship with other believers.

I. SEVEN BENEFITS TO BEING COMMITTED TO A LOCAL CHURCH

A. YOU BECOME HOLY AND YOU ARE PROTECTED FROM THE EVIL ONE.

1. Acts 2:40-41 “Be saved from this perverse generation... and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*.”

2. May 25, 1973 Friday night I walked out of the Deep Purple Rock Concert

3. Proverbs 13:20 (The Message) “Become wise by walking with the wise; hang out with fools and watch your life fall to pieces.”

4. 1 Corinthians 15:33 “Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company ruins good morals.’”

5. Our choice to homeschool our children so that our values got inculcated to our children. When you are part of a local church, you become more Christlike because Kingdom values are being imparted to you.

B. YOU FULFILL GOD’S WILL BY BEING A PART OF GOD’S FAMILY.

1. Genesis 1:27-28 From the very beginning God wanted a family.

2. Ephesians 2:19 (TLB) “You are members of God’s very own family...”

3. The church is God’s family. The metaphors that the Bible uses reaffirms that we are part of God’s family. God is our father. Jesus is our elder brother. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. We are children of the most high God.



4. Mark 3:33-35 And he answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴ And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

5. No matter where I go around the world, when I meet another believer, there is immediate connection. They are my brothers and sisters. It is supernatural. The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells within us.

C. YOU ADVANCE GOD’S KINGDOM THROUGH THE CHURCH

1. Matthew 16:18b-19 “I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

2. The church is God’s method of advancing His Kingdom.

D. YOU CULTIVATE AND ESTABLISH ETERNAL FRIENDSHIPS AND RELATIONSHIPS.

1. Sue and I have close relationships that go back 25 plus years. We go on retreats and vacations together.

2. You are loved and cared for.

3. Every person should be in a Small Group or Family groups.

4. There is a sense of security and belonging that takes place in a church.

E. YOU CAN DISCOVER AND DEPLOY YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

1. You realize your fullest potential in the context of a local church.

2. I started by being an usher of a Bible study and started to pray for sick people.

F. YOU COME INTO YOUR DESTINY AND FULFILL GOD’S CALLING ON YOUR LIFE.

1. When you align yourself with God’s Word and His Church, you will fulfill your destiny.

2. *Ekklesia* means called out ones. God has called you out to transform the world.

G. YOU MATURE SPIRITUALLY AND GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.

1. “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers” Acts 2:42



2. Hebrews 10:24 (Philips) “Let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and do-good deeds.”

II. SEVEN CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD CHURCH MEMBER

A. A GOOD CHURCH MEMBER LOVES GOD AND OBEYS GOD’S WORD

B. A GOOD CHURCH MEMBER LOVES HIS CHURCH.

1. John 13:34 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”

2. Galatians 6:10 “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

3. We should love what Jesus loves, and Jesus loves the church, and laid down His life for her. Ephesians 5:25

4. Billy Graham says, “The Bible says that it was Christ’s love for the church that caused him to go to the cross. If Christ loved the church that much...I must love it too. I must pray for it, defend it, work in it, pay my tithe and offerings to it, help to advance it, promote holiness in it, and make it the functional, witnessing body our Lord meant it to be.”

C. A GOOD CHURCH MEMBER IS IN AGREEMENT WITH THE VISION AND VALUES OF THE CHURCH. PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2

D. A GOOD CHURCH MEMBER SERVES THE CHURCH WITH HIS/HER TALENTS, GIFTS, AND TIME. 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-11

1. Galatians 5:13 “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

E. A GOOD CHURCH MEMBER SUPPORTS THE CHURCH FINANCIALLY WITH HIS/HER TITHES AND OFFERINGS. MALACHI 3:6-12

1. Malachi 3:10 (NLT) “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!”

F. A GOOD CHURCH MEMBER FOLLOWS THE LEADERS OF THE CHURCH AND THEY CARRY THE HEART OF THE SR. PASTOR.



1. Hebrews 13:17 (NIV) “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

G. A GOOD CHURCH MEMBER FAITHFULLY ATTENDS THE SUNDAY CELEBRATION SERVICE (HEBREWS 10:25) AND A SMALL GROUP

1. Hebrews 10:24-25 “Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”

