



the early CHURCH

Prayer | Breaking Bread | Teaching | Fellowship
ACTS 2:42

the series...

1. What JESUS said...
2. What the EARLY CHURCH did...
3. What EARLY PENTECOSTALS did...
4. What THE CHURCH TODAY needs to do...



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THE
FELLOWSHIP

What JESUS said...



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What JESUS said about the Church...

Matthew 16:15-18

... “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon, Son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it...”



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What JESUS said about the Church...

Matthew 16:15-18

“CHURCH”

Gk word: *ecclesia*

meaning: “The called out ones”



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What JESUS said about unity...

John 17:20-

...I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—



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What JESUS said about unity...

John 17:20-23, 26

I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me... I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the LOVE you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”



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What the EARLY CHURCH did...



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What the EARLY CHURCH did...

Acts 2:42

“...they devoted themselves to the apostles’ *teaching* and the FELLOWSHIP, to the *breaking of bread* and the *prayers*.”



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What the EARLY CHURCH did...

Ephesians 2:18-22

For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.



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What the EARLY CHURCH did...

The Christian Life

- Common faith
 - Ephesians (one God, one Spirit, one hope...)
- Common life
 - “Brother” and “Sister” no matter race, age, class...



What the EARLY CHURCH did...

The Christian Life

“The Christians are distinguished from other men neither by country, nor language, nor the customs which they observe. They display to us, nevertheless, a wonderful and confessedly striking method of life. They dwell in their own countries, but simply as sojourners. As citizens, they share all things with others, and yet endure all things as if foreigners...



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What the EARLY CHURCH did...

The Christian Life

...Every foreign land is to them as their native country, and every land of their birth as a land of strangers. They are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh. They pass their days on earth, but they are citizens of heaven. They obey the prescribed laws, and at the same time surpass the laws by their lives. They love all men, and are persecuted by all...



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What the EARLY CHURCH did...

The Christian Life

...They are insulted, and repay the insult with honor. They do good, yet are punished as evil-doers..."¹

¹Henry Sheldon, *History of the Christian Church The Early Church*, vol. 1 (Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1988), 293.



What the EARLY CHURCH did...

1 Corinthians 12:6-7, 18, 25

“...there are varieties of activities but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...God arranged the members in the body...as he chose...that there be no division...but that the members may have the same care for one another...”



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What EARLY PENTECOSTALS did...



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What EARLY PENTECOSTALS did... the Church

Being the Fellowship

- “Brother” & “Sister” – fellow children of God
- Community

The Pentecostal Church (Eschatological Trinitarian Fellowship)

1. A People of God
2. A Body of Christ
3. A Communion in the Holy Spirit



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What **THE CHURCH TODAY** needs to do...



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What THE CHURCH TODAY needs to do...

Francis Chan's story...

- 1994: Founding pastor of *Cornerstone Church* (Simi Valley, California)
- In 1994, he lists his top 5 priorities as:
 1. Building
 2. Leading Music
 3. Sermon
 4. Sound System
 5. Child care

Evangelical Framework



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What THE CHURCH TODAY needs to do...

Francis Chan's story...

- Within 2/3 years: one of the most “successful churches” around
- From meeting in a school to numerous services in big building – 1000 people
- QUESTION: if we based our gatherings on scripture, not culture, would our meetings look like this?



What THE CHURCH TODAY needs to do...

The community

“As important as my own personal relationship with Jesus is, I cannot live out my God-given mission of making disciples without other Christians.” – Francis Chan

Fellowship starts with LOVE



What THE CHURCH TODAY needs to do...

Practical Thoughts

1. *Worshiping*

- *Learning, teaching, giving, singing, glory, honor...*

2. *Loving*

- *Unity among believers and everyone else*

3. *Serving*

- *Spiritual gifts, unique passions, one body*

4. *Growing*

- *Discipleship, relationship, craftsmanship, partnership*



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The early church was devoted...
Are We?



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