

Study Guide

Our Study: Acts 2.42-47 - *Community Formation II*

Messenger: Pastor Keith

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Objective: In 2026, we commit to our community formation, so we can walk in agreement and live life together in Christ while carrying out His mission.

Summary: Universal (invisible) Church requirements for entry into the church:

1. **Repent** of your sins and turn to God (conviction/faith)
2. **Receive** forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit (born again)
3. **Be baptize** in Christ's Name (authority/community identity)

Salvation is God's work alone; only He truly knows those who belong to His Church and adds them to it. 2 Timothy 2.19b.

The local (visible) Church is the expression of the universal (invisible) Church. It was established by Christ's authority, entrusted to the Apostles, and carried on by the elders and those who put their faith in Him. Titus 1.5

God entrusts His universal Church to the local church to:

- **Receive** those who have repented and put their faith in Christ
- **Baptize** them into the Body (new community)
- **Walk** with them, **nurture** them, and **equip** them

Scripture Study: Church Community Formation

The early church devoted their lives to follow the Apostles' doctrine, fellowship, and prayer:

1. _____ to doctrine, fellowship, and prayer. v42
- a) Apostles' Doctrine – teachings rooted in proclaiming the gospel, calling people to repentance, and faith in Christ, baptizing them into fellowship with the church and teaching them to live a Spirit filled life.
- b) Fellowship – Sharing life together through mutual support, shared resources, hospitality, the celebration of the Lord's Supper, and carrying out the mission of Christ, resulting in deep relationships and a strong sense of unity.
- c) Prayers – Regularly and intentionally gathered for corporate prayer, seeking God's presence to align with His will, to maintain unity, to invite God into the activities of the lives, and to hear God's voice at the same time.

Our Formation: Our church is devoted to the Apostles' doctrine, to our fellowship, and to corporate prayer.

2. _____ for the move of God and authority. v43
 - Reverence of the **move** of God. They realized this was not a human movement or emotional excitement; God Himself was present.
 - Reverence of the **power** of God. They recognized transformation in their lives and activities of the Spirit.
 - Reverence for the **leadership** of God. They recognized that the Apostles were men of God, and they submitted to their authority.
3. _____ in a shared life (Christ). Here is how the early church followers shared their life together in Christ:
 - a) _____ - 44. Now all who believed were together and had all things in common 45. and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.
 - b) _____ – 46a. So, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house,
 - c) _____ – 46b. they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47a. Praising God
 - d) _____ – 47b. and having favor with all people, And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. (NKJV)

Reflection: Examine our own community formation

1. Are you devoted to our doctrine, fellowship, and prayer?
2. Do you reverence that God Himself is present with us?
3. Do you participate giving generously, attending our gatherings faithfully, and having an attitude of gratitude?