

“Jesus People Forge a Healthy Church” Acts 2:42-47

Believers forge a healthy church when they are passionate about God’s priorities for a healthy church.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47 (English Standard Version)

● A HEALTHY CHURCH IS A BIBLE-STUDYING CHURCH.

“Devotion” = Greek = *proskartereo* = “to continue steadfastly with something”

Why must the Bible be such an important priority for the members of a healthy church?

- Because God’s Word must be every believers’ final authority for faith and life . . .
- Jesus’ Prayer: *Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.* John 17:17 (ESV)
- Christianity is ultimately a matter of bowing to God’s authority by obedient response to His Word, the truth.

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV)

. . . Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15b (New Living Translation)

● A HEALTHY CHURCH IS A CONNECTED CHURCH.

“Fellowship” = Greek = *koinonia* = “having something in common”

We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 1 John 1:3 (NLT)

We know what real love is because Christ gave up his life for us. And so we also ought to give up our lives for our Christian brothers and sisters. 1 John 3:16 (NLT)

And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others. Romans 12:5b (NLT)

Lighthouse is your church, but your community is the group of people at Lighthouse with whom you are interdependent, the people with whom you are connected.

● A HEALTHY CHURCH IS A WORSHIPING CHURCH.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11:26 (ESV)

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵And 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. Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

● A HEALTHY CHURCH IS AN EVANGELIZING CHURCH.

Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people’s hearts, and they will learn the truth. ²⁶Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil’s trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants. 2 Timothy 2:25-26 (NLT)