

Becoming the Church We're Meant to Be

Pastor Dick Tennesen, Feb. 1, 2004, Redwood Christian Center, Felton, CA

Acts 2:41-47 – INTRODUCTION:

Core Value #6: The Church: All true believers, born-again by faith in Jesus Christ, are the Church of Jesus Christ, bought by His work on the Cross, commissioned by Him to continue His work, and empowered for service by the Holy Spirit. The local church is commissioned to reach the lost, exercise their gifts, be shepherded, and grow in Christlikeness, until that day when He calls Her home, as His eternal Bride. _____

I. The PEOPLE of GOD, v. 41 -- This is RELATIONSHIP!

A. Most of this passage is about relationship!

B. At least 3,000 -- all new believers, all of a sudden, had joined in a brand new relationship with one another. _____

II. The PURPOSES of GOD, vv. 42, 44-47

This is RESPONSIBILITY -- They continued steadfastly. _____

•In the APOSTLES' DOCTRINE _____

•In FELLOWSHIP _____

•In the BREAKING of BREAD. Is this Communion, or simply eating together socially? _____

•And we can't leave out COMMUNAL LIVING -- but how are we to practice this today? _____

The key word is KOINONIA, which means: _____

III. The POWER of GOD, vv. 43, 47

This is the RESULT of RELATIONSHIP + RESPONSIBILITY. God will allow His power to be used for His purposes. There were three evidences of God's power:

•FEAR came upon every soul, v. 43 _____

•Many WONDERS and SIGNS were DONE _____

•HAVING FAVOR with all the PEOPLE _____

CONCLUSION: There is one last evidence of God's power in this passage: "And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved." The CHURCH should GROW -- Grow UP (v. 42), Grow TOGETHER (v. 44), Grow OUT (v. 47), and then Grow MORE (v. 47). Let's conclude this morning with Holy Communion.