

Message Notes

Gospel Centered Community

Acts 2:42-47

Pastor Steve Leonard

May 22, 2005

Message Outline

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- I. What is produced in Christian people's lives when community is focused on the Gospel?**
 - A. Community transforms our ability to persevere. (Acts 2:42-43)
 - B. Community transforms our relationships. (Acts 2:44-45)
 - C. Community transforms our worship. (Acts 2:46-47a)
 - D. The gospel impacts peoples' lives and transforms them. People live differently.

- II. What is the effect on a place where peoples' lives are being transformed this way?**
 - A. Community produces transformation and invigorates missional living. (Acts 2:47b)
 - B. "What's the evidence of transformation in your life?"

- III. What kind of community? What is the thing that brings this all about?**
 - A. Community in the Spirit produces transformation and invigorates missional living. (Acts 2:47)
 - B. The Gospel of Jesus Christ changes everything! (Acts 2:42-47)
 - C. Communion with the Spirit of God affects transformation in our lives and empowers missional living. (Acts 2:14-36)
 - D. This chapter proclaims the transforming presence of the Spirit of God. (Acts 2)

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1. Read Acts 2:14–47 again. Make a brief outline of the events leading up to Acts 2:42-47. What does this context teach you about the Holy Spirit's involvement in Acts 2?
2. In your own words, define the apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayer in Acts 2:42. Why were these practices so important to the early Christians?
3. Read Acts 4:23-31. What caused these believers to pray? What strikes you about this prayer? How would you describe the tone of this prayer? What do we learn about praying here?
4. Compare Acts 2:44-45 with Acts 4:32-37 and Acts 5:1-11. What characteristics of the early church stand out to you based on these passages? What do you see as other possible outcomes of the Ananias and Sapphira incident? What does this teach us about a Christian understanding of material possessions?

Growth Group Application Questions

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1. Looking back over last Sunday's message, what point, illustration or idea did you need to hear most?
2. We saw in Acts 2:44-45 that the Gospel changes the way we see people. Discuss how the Gospel impacts the way we relate to people. What difference does the Gospel make with people we see as difficult, too aggressive, too passive, as lower or as higher than we are at work or in society?
3. Why is it important that we don't understand Acts 2:42-47 as a formula for success in ministry? What does this passage teach us about God and His role in our lives and ministries?
4. Pastor Steve talked about the need for a church to be deeply and practically committed to both deeds of compassion and evangelism to avoid being dismissed in our culture. What are some specific examples of ways you personally could engage in deeds of compassion? What are some specific examples of ways you personally could engage in evangelism? What are some goals you could set personally and as a group in these areas?
5. Are there any areas in your life right now in which you are trying to prove yourself to God? Any areas where you are ignoring God?