

Message Notes | New Beginnings

Part 5: Life Together

Acts 2:42-47

→ what do you expect church to be?

#1 Jesus gave people a new way to have _____.

→ four distinct practices of the early church - **Acts 2:41-43**

#2 A shared _____ of life reflects a shared _____ in Jesus.

→ be intentional with things that began naturally

→ intense unity despite diversity - **Acts 2:44-45, 4:32-34**

#3 The “_____” of the early church was simply an _____ of Jesus.

→ glad and sincere - **Acts 2:46-47**

#4 What keeps us together _____.

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1. What do you think most people expect from church today?

How have your own expectations changed over time?

2. **Read Acts 2:42.** Which of the four practices—teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer—do you most naturally connect with?

Which one feels most challenging or unfamiliar?

3. The activity of the early church wasn’t designed by a strategy team—it flowed naturally from a desire to imitate Jesus. How can we avoid slipping into routines or traditions that lose their original purpose?

4. **Read Acts 2:44-45.** What’s one way our church, or you personally, can better reflect the character of Jesus in how we live together?

5. The early Christians met with “glad and sincere hearts.” They had no pretenses and nothing to hide. What are some things that might hinder our willingness to be open and vulnerable with others?

6. The message said, “What keeps the church together draws others in.” Can you think of a time when you were drawn into a community because of how they treated each other?

7. What’s one step you can take this week to help this group—or our church family—look more like the church in Acts 2?

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Acts 2:42-47

→ what do you expect church to be?

#1 Jesus gave people a new way to have life together.

→ four distinct practices of the early church - **Acts 2:41-43**

#2 A shared rhythm of life reflects a shared identity in Jesus.

→ be intentional with things that began naturally

→ intense unity despite diversity - **Acts 2:44-45, 4:32-34**

#3 The "system" of the early church was simply an imitation of Jesus.

→ glad and sincere - **Acts 2:46-47**

#4 What keeps us together draws others in.

Bible Reading for Today

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

