

THE MODEL CHURCH

Being the first church, and the object of prophecy, *“the church which was at Jerusalem”* serves as the model church in every respect.

I. THE RESPECTED CHURCH

A. Acts 2:46-47_a; 4:21; 5:13_b

Though this church would later see persecution of the worst variety, it nevertheless commanded the respect of the community.

B. 1st Peter 2:11-12

Christians are required to be the type of people whose godly deeds prompt the interest of outsiders to the gospel.

II. THE GLAD CHURCH

A. Acts 2:46

Contentment characterized the first Christians as they gathered in one another's homes to share their meals.

B. 1st Corinthians 11:22, 34

The home, not the church, is the appropriate setting for such a social occasion as the common meal. We must emphasize that churches should not intrude into the work of the home in this regard. Nevertheless, members should gladly welcome opportunities to enjoy meals together.

III. THE DAILY CHURCH

A. Acts 2:46

The zeal of the church at Jerusalem is seen in that they met on a daily basis. While some aspects of worship are scripturally limited to the first day of the week, namely the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7) and the collection (1st Corinthians

16:1-2), we acknowledge the precedent of the early church in meeting throughout the week.

B. Hebrews 3:12-13

We must encourage one another on a daily basis.

IV. THE UNITED CHURCH

A. Acts 2:46; 4:32

They were *“with one accord”* and were *“of one heart and soul”*.

B. Romans 15:5-6

Like-mindedness is repeatedly called for in scripture.

V. THE PRAYING CHURCH

A. Acts 2:42

“They continued steadfastly in... prayer.”

B. Acts 4:24; 12:5, 12

1. *“Raised their voice to God with one accord.”*
2. *“Constant prayer offered to God... by the church.”*
3. *“Many were gathered together praying.”*

VI. THE LEARNING CHURCH

A. Acts 2:42

The church at Jerusalem found agreement in the steadfast teaching of the apostles.

B. Ephesians 4:11-16

Likewise, the church today must agree in steadfastly proclaiming the apostles' doctrine. Christ arranged the church in such a way that we might find unity in faith, and to avoid wavering.

C. 2nd Timothy 3:16

This doctrine must be derived from no other source than the scripture.

VII. THE GIVING CHURCH

A. Acts 2:44-45

They *"had all things in common"*.

B. Acts 4:32-37

To meet an enormous need at the time, these Christians surrendered their private property, giving it into a common treasury to enable the church to adequately address that need.

VIII. THE NEEDY CHURCH

A. Acts 11:27-30

The prophecy of Agabus foretold a worldwide famine, but the implication of the text is that Judea was hit hardest, so churches elsewhere resolved to relieve them of that need. Not even the most exemplary church of the New Testament was so financially solid as to never need help.

B. Romans 15:25-27

Paul referred to the ministry which benefited saints in Jerusalem in a letter to Rome. Notice, a spiritual bond precipitated a material sharing.

C. 1st Corinthians 16:1-3

Churches from all over were contributing. This is the only situation in Scripture in which churches are authorized to exchange money.

IX. THE SUFFERING CHURCH

A. Acts 5:17-33

The Sadducees plotted to kill the apostles.

B. Acts 6:8-14; 7:54-8:3

The Synagogue of the Freedmen and the Pharisees, including Saul of Tarsus, stoned Stephen to death, and then Saul went on making havoc of the churches.

C. Acts 12:1-4

The government sought to do harm against the church, Herod ordering the execution of the apostles James and Peter.

X. THE ORGANIZED CHURCH

A. Acts 11:29-30; 15:1-6, 22-29

The church at Jerusalem was duly organized, with elders overseeing finances and doctrine.

B. Acts 14:23

Paul saw to it that every church appointed elders.

C. Acts 20:28

The work of elders is evident.

XI. THE RECEIVING CHURCH

A. Acts 9:26-28

The church was willing to receive Christians who had moved into the area, but not without vetting them first.

B. 2nd John 10-11

We must not automatically accept every newcomer without knowing they are sound in faith.

C. Acts 18:27

An exchange of letters can facilitate this well.

XII. THE SENDING CHURCH

A. Acts 8:1, 4, 14

Notice that even when these Christians were scattered by persecution, they had an evangelistic fervor to spread the word with them. The church in Jerusalem sent preachers to these new places.

B. Acts 11:19-23

Again, observe how enthusiastic these persecuted Christians were to share the gospel as they were pushed out of Jerusalem, and take note that, once again, the church in Jerusalem was happy to send preachers.

XIII. THE GROWING CHURCH

A. Acts 6:1-7

The church at Jerusalem grew when internal problems were solved. Observe that there is no growth where there is no obedience.

B. Acts 4:1-4

The church at Jerusalem grew when it was severely persecuted. Notice that growth occurred through hearing and believing.

C. Acts 2:40-41, 38

The church at Jerusalem grew when its preaching castigated popular trends as perverse. Be sure to note that it was when people repented and were baptized that any growth was realized.