

AN AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY

Acts 2:36 - 47 • July 23, 2023

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INTRODUCTION:

A. An authentic faith creates an authentic life, filled with authentic relationships.

B. The church is, or should be known for being this type of authentic community.

Every day they continued to meet together...praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:46-47

I. AN AUTHENTIC CHURCH PROCLAIMS AND LIVES OUT THE REALITY OF CHRIST

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.... Repent and be baptized, everyone one of you... for the forgiveness of your sins.”

Acts 2:36-38

B. When a church is filled with authentic Christians, the Good News message of Jesus Christ is both proclaimed and lived out.

C. We are the bearers of the most important of all truths. This truth about Christ is the bottom line of all our ministries, programs and activities.

II. AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY IS FUELED BY A DEDICATION TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread (communion) and to prayer.

Acts 2:42

- They were (and we are) committed to: (The mission of SCC)
 - **Worship** “*breaking of bread and prayer...praising God...*” v. 42 & 47
 - **Education** “*...devoted to the apostles teaching*” v. 42
 - **Ministry** “*...they gave to anyone as they had need.*” vs. 45-46
 - **Fellowship** “*All the believers had everything in common.*” v. 44
 - **Evangelism** “*The Lord added...those who were being saved.*” v. 47

B. Authentic faith aspires to full devotion in Jesus Christ.

- SCC Vision “...as we become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.”

III. AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY IGNITES AN "ALL IN" LIFESTYLE

All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as they had need...with glad and sincere hearts.

Acts 2:44 – 46

B. Authentic Christian community is about being all in with Jesus and all in with each other.

- “Real Christian community is distinguished by an unashamed commitment to serve, help, support and encourage one another. Wouldn't you agree?”

C. We are better together than we are alone!

CONCLUSION: