

A Model Church - cont.

A Giving Church (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; 6:1-6)

Sixth, the Jerusalem church was a very giving church. They sacrificed their own goods to help their needy brethren. The problem today is that many church members are selfish and unconcerned for their needy brethren.

When you look at the giving Jerusalem church, you find that their benevolence was:

- *A united effort* - they were “together” in helping their needy brethren (2:44-45).
- *From the heart* - they gave because they were of “one heart” (4:32-37).
- *For the needy saints* - they gave to their needy brethren (2:44-45; 4:32-37; 6:1-6).

The solution for uncaring brethren today is to work to have for those in need. (Acts 20:34-35; 2 Cor. 9:7). Paul wrote: “*Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing that is good, that he may have whereof to give to him that hath need*” (Ephesians 4:28).

- Chris Reeves -

- Scripture of the Week -

“And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha”
- 2 Kings 6:17 -

Here’s a good prayer: Lord, open my eyes that I may see the truth of your word.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Jerusalem: A Model Church (Part 2)

In last week's bulletin, we made a study of how the Jerusalem church in Acts 2-12 is a good model for all local churches today. They set the right example of how to faithfully serve the Lord on a weekly basis. We noted that they were a:

- A Converted Church (Acts 2:37-41).
- A Worshipping Church (2:42, 46-47).
- A Learning Church (Acts 2:42; 5:42).

Let us continue our study looking at the Jerusalem church to see what additional ways they are a model for us today.

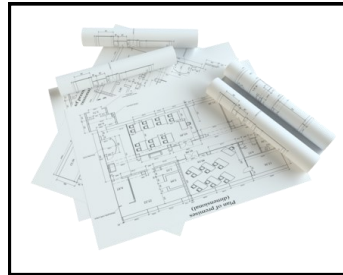
A United Church (Acts 2:44-46; 4:24, 32; 6:1-6)

Fourth, the Jerusalem church was a model of how members can and should be united "together". The problem today in many local churches is a lack of unity. There is hyper-individualism and there is division in many churches.

When you examine the unity and togetherness in the church at Jerusa-

lem you find that their unity was in:

- *Submission to God's teaching* - they were believers together (2:44).
- *Service to God and others* - they had "all things in common" and they worshipped with "one accord" in the temple and prayed with "one accord" to God (2:45-47; 4:24, 32).



- *Serious in practice* - they made sure their brethren were taken care of in the midst of growth (6:1-6).

The solution today in divided churches is to take unity seriously and work at it (John 17:20-23; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:2-3). The Psalmist wrote:

*"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"
(Psalm 133:1).*

A Praying Church (Acts 2:42; 4:24; 6:6; 12:5)

Fifth, the Jerusalem church relied upon God and prayed to him regularly. The problem today is that some church members are ungrateful, self-reliant, and worldly. They do not rely upon God in prayer.

When you look at the Jerusalem church, you find that their prayers were made:

- *In good times* - they prayed right after being baptized (2:42).
- *In challenging times* - they prayed for the men who would be serving the widows (6:6).
- *In bad times* - they prayed when Peter and John were released from prison (4:24) and they prayed again when Peter was back in prison (12:5).

The solution today in churches that lack prayer is to pray at all times and for all occasions. Paul wrote:

*"pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus to you-ward"
(1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)*

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