

The Story Of Us



Part 1: The Early Church (Remember When We First Fell In Love?)



INTRODUCTION – THE POWER OF HISTORY

Why Study History?...

- 1) Our romantic history reminds us of who we _____ be.
- 2) We're encouraged by how God works through _____.
- 3) We're humbled by how little each _____ sees.

PAGING DR. LUKE

Colossians 4:14

Luke writes regarding:

- Jesus (**Acts 2:22-41**)
- The Spirit (**Acts 2:14-21**)
- Unreasonable Joy (**Acts 16:13-34**)
- Women & Outcasts (**Luke 4:18,19; Luke 14:13; Acts 4:32-35**)
- Gentiles in a Jewish Faith (**Acts 1:7-9; 13:44-48**)
- Miracles (**Acts 10:38; 28:1-10**)
- The Kingdom (**Luke 6:27-31, Luke 20:22-25, Luke 23:13-16, Acts 25:6-8**)
- House Churches (**Acts 2:42-47; Acts 20:20**)

THE MARKS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

Acts 2:42-47

- 1) Dedication to New Covenant _____.
- 2) Devotion to New Covenant _____.
John 13:34-35; Romans 12:5
- 3) Desire to keep Christ _____.
- 4) Dependence upon God through _____.
- 5) Openness to the gifts of God's _____.
- 6) Detachment from material _____.
- 7) Sense of _____, _____, _____, and _____.
- 8) Welcome acceptance of _____ and _____.

CONCLUSION – THE GREAT DIVIDE

Acts 7:46-60; Romans 8:1-4

Home church questions...

WARMING UP...

1. After reviewing Sunday's message, share the one thing that most encouraged or challenged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

2. On the day of Pentecost as **Acts 2** records, the Holy Spirit came upon believers in two very different ways. Compare the experience of the 120 (**vv. 1-6**) with that of the 3,000 (**vv. 37-41**). Why would one group have experienced certain miraculous signs that the other group did not when both received the same Spirit (**v. 38**)? Which pattern should we consider normative for our churches today? Why?
3. How does **Acts 3:1; 13:14-16; 17:1-3 etc.** illustrate the fact that early Christ-followers never intended to form a separate religion, but to enjoy the fulfillment of their Jewish faith? How then did the two movements become separated? (See **Acts 4:1-3; 6:8-14; 7:51-8:4**, etc.) What implications does this raise for us today?

SO WHAT?...

4. If Dr. Luke could be transported into our church today, what a) encouragements and b) concerns do you think he would probably want to share with us at *The Meeting House* in light of **Acts 2:42-47**?
5. Of those areas of encouragement and concern, what is one step you can commit to in order to help our church family become a more biblically functioning community? Pray for each other in these areas.

SPECIAL BONUS QUESTION (NO EXTRA CHARGE!)

6. Most books of New Testament Scripture were chosen because they were written by an Apostle of Jesus or a close associate of an Apostle. After reading the following verses, try to build a reasonable case for why the books written by Luke (Luke & Acts) would have been accepted by the early believers as New Covenant Scripture. See **Luke 1:1-4; Acts 16:10; Philemon 1:23-24; John 14:17, 25-26; 16:13; 2 Peter 3:16; 1 Timothy 5:18; Luke 10:7.**

Bruxy Cavey & Tim Day @ The Meeting House, Sunday, September 29, 2001