

Structure Matters - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Looking at Acts 20:17, 28-31, 1 Tim 5:17, and 1 Pet 5:1-5 who was to lead the early church and what were their responsibilities?

5. From 1 Tim 3:1-7 how should an overseer (elder) feel about his responsibility (v1)? List his qualifications (use also Titus 1:5-9), and explain why you think these are all important.

6. Based on Eph 4:11-16 how does the role of church leadership (v11-12) and the members (v12) differ? What are the overall goals (v13-16)?

7. In Acts 4:32-36 how did the early church view their possessions (v32, 34-35) and what method was used to distribute their offerings? How could that example be followed today?

8. According to 1 Tim 5:1-2 how should we view fellow church members? Who is the “Head” of this family (Eph 5:22-23, Col 1:18) and how does this guide the decision-making process?

9. Using 1 Cor 12:12-27 how is the church identified (v13, 27)? How should the diverse body parts (v15, 16, 17, 21) relate to one another (v20-26)?

10. From 1 Cor 12:4-7 what three elements differ in church and who is responsible for each (v4, 5, 6)? What should be the goal of each member (Eph 4:15-16)?

11. In Acts 2:47, 8:1, 11:26, and 14:23 and Gal 1:2 how is idea of “local” church revealed? Why is local church membership important, in contrast to just attending?

12. Based on Matt 18:15-17, 1 Cor 5:1-13 and Gal 6:1-4 what can participating members of a local church do for each other? What promise does Jesus make about this (Matt 18:20)?

Scripture to Remember

“And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

Ephesians 1:22-23 (NASV)

Celebration Fellowship

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Life Group Questions—Spiritual Pediatrics (Acts 2:42-47)

(Using questions from Sunday's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Share with the group about the most productive “team” you have ever been on. How did you feel about that experience, and how was it accomplished?
2. Read Acts 2:42-47. What 4 things did the early believers devote themselves to? What is different about being devoted to “fellowship” vs. “the fellowship”?
3. Identify some ways your Life Group can specifically carry out the purpose of ministry to each other.
4. Talk about ways that your Life Group could do ministry to the world outside.
5. What is the role of the “breaking of bread” and prayer in the growth of believers. What are some ways that your Life Group can do these things together?
6. Looking at Acts 2:43-47 what were the results in the early church of devoting themselves to the 4 activities of Acts 2:42? What might the results be in our community if we did the same things?
7. Talk about anything else meaningful from Sunday's message if you have time.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Studies in New Testament Christianity

July 4, 2010

Growing in Spirit & Truth

Volume 8, Issue 44



Structure Matters



Jesus' one solitary life changed the course of mankind for eternity.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Whether it is the skeletal system of the body or the frame of a building, structure matters. Mobility and freedom are either enhanced or inhibited depending on the structure. Similarly, effective ministry structures release people to impact their world for Christ and fuels their significance in the kingdom, but restrictive ministry structures lead to frustration and apathy. This week's study covers the biblical basis for the structure here at Celebration. The logical starting place to consider this is the first church, formed at Pentecost. They were devoted to God and each other, meeting in the temple and in homes, and the results were amazing. By showing sacrificial love to each other and devotion to God, they impacted the world around them favorably. The local expres-

sion of the church in Corinth faced some issues, though. Because everyone participated (a good thing) Paul instructed them to do everything in an orderly fashion. This would guard the unity of the Body, one of the highest priorities. While everyone is gifted, these gifts vary, so unity must prevail. Jesus is the Head of his Body and, as Acts 15 shows, the church is to await and follow His direction. He speaks through the elders, affirms it in the congregation, and His will is accomplished. For that reason at Celebration every decision presented to the Body must be unanimous with the Elders and then presented for affirmation of God's will. These leaders must be mature men of integrity who have demonstrated faithfulness in their relationships, leading to a

good reputation. They are responsible to oversee God's family, keeping adverse influences away and promoting unity and edification. All the members must contribute financially for the Body to be strong, allowing the church to direct these funds as the apostles did in the early days. They must also employ their spiritual gifts in building up one another and engage in the ministries that God has directed, leaving the results to Him. This structure is based on dependable people, so it is vital that they "join" to allow maximum ministry impact on the world for Jesus.

Study Questions for Structure Matters

<p>1. Read Acts 2:42-47. To what 4 things was the church at Jerusalem devoted (v42) and what were the results (v43, 44-45, 46, 47)?</p>	
<p>2. Based on 1 Cor 14:26-33, 40 how did the Corinthians "do church" (v26) and what guidelines were they to follow (v26, 27-32, 40)? Why (v33)? What must a church guard (Eph 4:1-3, Rom 14:19, 16:17)?</p>	
<p>3. From Acts 15:1-23 what problem faced the early church (v1-12) and how did they deal with it (v6, 7-11, 12, 13-21, 22-23)? How were the elders, the people, and God involved with this approach?</p>	

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