

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

What does God's design for church look like?

We dishonor the King of Creation when we seek to establish a cookie cutter image of His Church.

As recorded by Luke in the book of Acts, the followers of Jesus were discovering they were part of something much bigger than themselves.

Acts 2:42 The early Church was single-minded about  
Learning—Loving—Worship—Prayer

If you have less than these you don't have a church:

- w/out true Biblical Teaching you can't have a church
- w/out authentic Biblical Loving you can't have a church
- w/out Worship you can't have a church
- w/out Prayer you can't have a church

LEARNING (TEACHING)

God used signs and wonders to authenticate the message of the apostles' teaching.

Learning is not only discovering new truth, it is also getting rid of baggage.

The enemy feeds on the untaught and the misinformed.

LOVING (FELLOWSHIP)

Acts 2:44 Commonism got the church started:

- absent of selfishness
- absent of greed
- absent of competition

Acts 2:47 Adding numbers is a natural outgrowth of who we are.

God invites us to join Him in His work, not the other way around.

Commit to 4 things each week:

- Come to services to discover more of God.
- Hang out with your church family. Do life together.
- Serve in a ministry in some way to impact others.
- Pray—release the Power of God in every situation.

GREEK WORDS

Ktizo—to fabricate, original (form)

Ekklesia—a calling out

Hagios (hag'-ee-os)—sacred (consecrated); most holy [set apart]

Koinos (koy-nos')—common, i.e. shared by all

- Doubt - 32% say the church is not a safe place to express doubts  
25% have serious doubts they'd like to discuss
- Absent - Because I was looking for Jesus and I could not find him there  
One-fifth say God is absent from their church experience
- Shallow - One-fourth say Bible teaching is unclear  
33% call church boring and irrelevant

"You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church" by David Kinnaman [18-29 yrs]