

## God's Purpose for the Church

What are some of the reasons you have heard or have used for why people go to church?

Is coming to church the same as belonging? What do you believe would be some of the differences in just coming rather than belonging to church?

Read this passage of scripture – Acts 2:36-42

“Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”  
Acts 2:36-42 ESV

What to do with these new converts? V. 42

“And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”  
Acts 2:43-47 ESV

Here are the main points from the sermon -

1. Be devoted to learn – here at FCC the desire for all is that we be devoted to the teaching and to fellowship
  - a. The Welcome Mat is for everyone here at FCC.
  - b. There are two expectations for those who are choosing to be a part of FCC.
    - i. to have the desire to grow – sitting and soaking and siphoning is not a good spot to be in here at FCC.
    - ii. to put in some work to grow. – growth is active and becoming like Christ is not only a desire but requires effort on our part.
2. Breaking bread together – gathering together and enjoying one another.
3. Prayer – daily connecting with our Heavenly Father. (Stop and take time to pray now in your community group, thanking God for His grace and mercy.)
4. Take care of one another – v. 44-45 (God owns it all) How is God leading you to minister to a need that someone has in our fellowship?

5. Be together (Is the church just an accessory in your life?) v. 47 – favor with one another and all the people.

Faithfulness is the standard for the believer. Most of the time faithfulness is not the most attractive to us and even to other believers. How might we encourage one another to choose faithfulness to God over “common sense” or saving face?

God rewards faithfulness because of who He is. Acts 2:47 - “and God added to their number.” Choosing to be faithful always honor God and gives Him glory. May that be true of our lives.

Read Romans 12:10 - What are some ways that we as fellow believers and members can choose to outdo one another in serving others?

Take time to take prayer requests and pray.