

Message

CONNECTING TOGETHER

AUGUST 9/10, 2014 | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON | MATTHEW 18:20; ACTS 2:42-47;
REVELATION 7:9-10; HEBREWS 10:24-25; COLOSSIANS 3:12-17; EPHESIANS 6:18-20

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20)

Four Core Truths about the Church

1. The Church is Formed by Jesus (Matthew 18:20)
2. The Church is Birthed by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4)
3. The Church is Sustained by God's Truth (Acts 2:42)
4. The Church is Moving Toward Eternal Community (Revelation 7:9-10)

Five Practical Ways We Connect Together as the Church (Acts 2:42)

1. Meeting together (Acts 2:46; Hebrews 10:24-25) – regular gathering
2. Focused attention to the God's word (Colossians 3:16) – solid truth
3. Focused attention to fellowship (Colossians 3:12-14) – being community
4. Focused attention to breaking of bread (Acts 2:46; Colossians 3:17) – grateful celebration
5. Focused attention to prayer (Ephesians 6:18-20) – intercessory worship

Study Guide

1. How would you define the church in your own words?
2. We continue our series "Together" this week by looking at what it means to be the church relationally. This week, we will spend time primarily in Acts 2:1-47 and Colossians 3:12-17. Stop to ask God to speak to you. Then, read Acts 2 and Colossians 3:12-17 aloud.
3. Peter's first sermon in the book of Acts is followed by a dramatic response from his hearers. How would you describe the response to Peter's sermon initially (verse 38-41) and in the days following (verses 42-47)?
4. The church is not something created by human beings. Based on what you see here, as well as what you know from other portions of Scripture, what would you say is the source of the church?
5. What do you think that the everyday life of the early church looked like? How does our life as a church look similar or different today? What does that make you think about?
6. Last week, we looked at Ephesians 2 and the vastly different people who were brought together in the church. In Colossians 3:12-17, Paul exhorts these vastly different people to live together in some very specific ways. Which of Paul's exhortations jumps out most to you? Why?
7. How might you grow in grace as a member of Christ's church based on what you are encountering here in Colossians 3?
8. What is one specific truth or point of application that God is speaking to you through this study, and how will you live that out this week? Write it down. If you are in a small group, share your thoughts with one another.