

# Life Application Notes

Week beginning 2nd November 2020

## What is essential church?

Chris Kilby

### Opening Up

In what ways did you grow through the first lockdown? Did you read more, learn an instrument, start a sourdough culture? Did you pare away some of the non-essentials that distracted you from spending your time more wisely?

Looking back at it, can you see God's hand in how things have changed? Has He given you more time to dig into his word and devote to prayer? How has He already prepared you for this next month to come?

### Digging In

#### Where and why do we see the essentials of church?

Read Acts 2:42-47. In this setting, Peter had just stood up after being filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and delivered his first big sermon, adding about 3000 new Christians to the believers' number. This is the beginning of church, and serves as an example of the necessities of church.

**Look back through the passage, what actions do the disciples take?** (Devote to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer, sold property and gave to the poor, committed to meeting in temple courts, broke bread and ate together, praised God)

Chris picked out the first four of these in more detail...

#### Devoted to the apostles' teaching

Chris reminded us of the importance of both the Word and Spirit in our biblical teaching, that as a church, we are both Reformed and Charismatic.

**What do people understand by the term Reformed?** - Reformed theology was pioneered by John Calvin and Ulrich Zwingli among others, breaking away from orthodox theology, i.e. Catholicism

**What do people understand by the term Charismatic?** - Christianity which places an emphasis on the works of the Holy Spirit, including spiritual gifts.

**What would a church look like that neglects either the Word or the Spirit?** Chris summarised as "All word and no Spirit we DRY up, all Spirit and no word we BLOW up, word and Spirit we GROW up."

Chris gave tips as to how we can be devoted to the apostles' teaching in our context. **Discuss how you could implement these:**

- Have an actual bible with you that you use regularly.
- Have a notebook to make notes to look back on and things that God impresses upon you during the message.
- If you miss a Sunday – catch up online so that you follow the themes, and you don't miss out (Podcast!)
- Be part of a regular Bible life group, where you can dig in together and apply the scriptures to your lives.
- 'The Apostles' Teaching' Yes – the NT, but also their local leaders. Let your main bread and butter be the teaching from your local church. There are great preachers online, but they don't know you, love you, and are not responsible before God for you.

## Devoted to the fellowship

Not just fellowship, but **the** fellowship - devoted to each other; look at verse 45 and the lengths they went to for each other. **What have you seen people (both in and out of the church) do for each other recently that shows this level of selfless love? What can we do ourselves over the next month to show this?**

## Breaking of bread

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and 10:16-17. **What does the first passage tell us about why it is important we do this? What does the second tell us about why it is important we ALL do this TOGETHER?**

We should be constantly reminded of what Jesus did for us by dying on the cross; how he took on our sin and made us right in God's sight. Similarly, by celebrating this together, we are reminded that we are to love each other as Christ first loved us (Eph 5:1-2).

## Prayer

As a church, we have doubled down on prayer during this pandemic, with our preaching series on prayer, the prayer course, Zoom at Noon and prayer evenings. **Consider ways we could bring corporate prayer into our Sunday morning meetings - Life Group Leaders feed this back!**

## Rounding Off

Take some time for corporate prayer in your Life Groups. Spend time praying for each others' needs and the points Chris listed on Sunday:

- The Government - pray that God would bless them and that his mercy for the poor would be worked out through them in this next month
- Physical healing for those in the church - particularly anyone in your group!
- Marriage and family life - pray for those on the marriage course, that that would bless them
- Buildings - the purchase of Cranbury terrace and the sale of the Life Centre are progressing, but pray that they would go well
- Our church in the Philippines in the wake of the cyclone there.