



Sunday, February 3, 2019  
Pastor Don Denyes

## **Introduction to Acts 2:41-47**

Everyone, everything, everyday. These 'everys' help guide our discussion of the early church. Everyone that repented and believed in Christ joined the Early Church. They willingly shared all things in common. They met together everyday. The commitment to the Church and Christ was all encompassing. Not that the church is perfect. Each of us still fails, but it is the power of Christ that unites and grows the church. Christ is the focus of the Church. In order to love and serve Him rightly we must also love His Church.

### **Context**

Pentecost is called the 'Birthday of the Church'. After the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostle's Peter preached the first sermon of the New Testament church and 3000 people gave their lives to follow Christ. While the early church isn't the be all end all of Christianity, we do find a pattern to follow even to this day. Shortly after accepting Christ the people submitted themselves to the teachings of the Apostles. Just as Christ is the Truth and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth, we submit to the truth. They also connected through sharing of resources. The early Christians sold their possessions and pooled the funds. This spirit of generosity filled the Church, and while we aren't forced to sell our possessions we should engage in a spirit of generosity. They related to God in worship. Notably, they were filled with awe and gladness when they approached God. Finally, they didn't just look inwardly, but they were reaching their neighbors. If we continued to follow these examples today it would mark the start of revival!

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Connectedness in the Church”

Read Acts 2: 41-47

Connect

- Related to the Apostles in Teaching
- Related to Each Other in Sharing
- Related to God in Worship
- Related to the World in Witness

## Discuss

- 1) How do you submit yourself to the Apostle's teachings?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) Are your interactions with the Church/Growth Group marked by a spirit of generosity? What are some ways you can be sharing?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) What is your mindset when you come to worship? Is your worship marked by the fruits of the Spirit?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) Is there anyone you are currently reaching out to? How do you know them? What are some ways the Growth Group can be praying/supporting you? (If you don't have anyone you are reaching out to who are some people you can start sharing with?)