PART 3
Why Church?

Acts 2:41-47

Those who accepted the message were baptized, and about 3,000 were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.

All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The Imperfect Church

Financial Duplicity — Acts 5

The Imperfect Church

Financial Duplicity — Acts 5

Acts 6 — Racial Discrimination

The Imperfect Church

Financial Duplicity — Acts 5

Acts 6 — Racial Discrimination

Spiritual Exclusivity — Acts 9

The Imperfect Church

Financial Duplicity *Acts 5*

Acts 6 Racial Discrimination

Spiritual Exclusivity *Acts 9*

Acts 11 Religious Legalism

GETTING CHURCH RIGHT

1

They eagerly embraced spiritual obligations.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."
— Verse 42

GETTING CHURCH RIGHT

2

They pragmatically applied spiritual experience.

"...Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need..."
— Verses 43-46

③

They unapologetically exerted spiritual influence.

"...enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved...."
– Verses 46-47

A group of believers properly devoted to spiritual practices will make spirituality practical, and practical spirituality can't help but spiritually impact it's city.

"They devoted themselves"
VERSE 42

A periphrastic participial phrase:
Continuous action

"They were <u>continually</u> devoting themselves... (NASB)

Deliberately Persevering

They were continually living out the word, living in fellowship, living for communion, and living by prayer.

The *Exalted Christ* now reveals himself to the world through the Church existing as community.

The Local Church is the only hope of a lost world because it is the most compelling expression of Jesus in the world today!

"Through you God has chosen to make known to the world the glorious riches of the mystery of salvation, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

COLOSSIANS 1:27

"When we say, 'I love Jesus, but I hate the Church,' we end up losing not only the Church, but Jesus too."

HENRI NOUWEN

"I tell you that … I will build my church, and the gates of Hell won't overcome it. I will give you, church, the keys to God's kingdom; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

MATTHEW 16:18-19

The local church
is God's "Plan A"
for the world.

There is no "Plan B"!

CONTINUALLY DEVOTING
YOURSELF TO THE FELLOWSHIP

Serve it!

"Don't use your freedom to drift into
self-centered living, rather, serve one
another humbly in love."
Galatians 5:13

CONTINUALLY DEVOTING
YOURSELF TO THE FELLOWSHIP

Shield it!

"Let us concentrate on the things
which make for harmony, and on
the growth of our fellowship."
Romans 14:19

CONTINUALLY DEVOTING
YOURSELF TO THE FELLOWSHIP

Support it!

"Now you are the body of Christ, and
each one of you is a part of it."
I Corinthians 12:27

E=mc²

energy = me *x* community

PART 3

Why Church?