

A Healthy Body of Christ

Acts 2:40-47

⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:40-41)

“Revival is when the Holy Spirit is poured out in such a way that the church is empowered, beautified, and returned to NT normalcy.” (Keller, paraphrase)

10 Descriptions of a Healthy Body of Christ (2:42-47)

1. Devotion to the Word (42a, 43)

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

2. Devotion to One Another (42b, 44)

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers

⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

“One Another Texts”

- "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." (Jn 13:34-35)
- "We are . . . individually members one of another" (Rom 12:5)
- "Love one another with brotherly affection" (Rom 12:10)
- "Outdo one another in showing honor" (Rom 12:10)
- "Instruct one another" (Rom 15:14)
- "Have the same care for one another" (1 Cor 12:25)
- "Through love serve one another" (Gal 5:13)
- "Bear one another's burdens" (Gal 6:2)
- "With patience, endure one another in love" (Eph 4:2)
- "Be kind to one another" (Eph 4:32)
- "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Eph 5:21)
- "In humility count others more significant than yourselves" (Phil 2:3)
- "Do not lie to one another" (Col 3:9)
- "Encourage one another" (1 Thess 4:18)
- "Always seek to do good to one another" (1 Thess 5:15)
- "Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works" (Heb 10:24)
- "Do not speak evil against one another, brothers" (Jam 4:11)
- "Do not grumble against one another" (Jam 5:9)
- "Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed." (Jam 5:16)
- "Show hospitality to one another without grumbling" (1 Pet 4:9)
- "Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another" (1 Pet 5:5)
- Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 1 (Jn 4:7)
- No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us." (1 Jn 4:12)

“It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brothers and sisters” (Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*)

3. Devotion to the Lord’s Supper (42c, 46)

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts

4. Devotion to Prayer (42d)

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

5. Radical Sharing and “Mercy Ministry” Especially Within the Church (45)

⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

6. Constant Interaction with One Another (46a)

⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,

7. Gathering in Both Large and Small Groups (46b)

⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,

8. A Spirit of Awe (43a), Gladness (46), and Praise to God (47a)

⁴³ And awe came upon every soul...

^{46b} ... they received their food with glad and generous hearts...

^{47a} praising God...

9. An Attractive Faith (47a)

^{47a} praising God and having favor with all the people.

10. Everyday Evangelism (47b)

^{47b} And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Checking Our Vital Signs: 4 Dynamics Working in a Healthy Church

Vital Sign #1: Biblical Nourishment

- **Do you understand the gospel?**
- **What are you consuming personally?**
- **Are you sitting under the Word regularly and humbly?**
- **Are others brothers and sisters admonishing you?**
- **Are you submitting to hard truth and repenting?**
- **Are you being renewed in the gospel daily?**

- Are you teaching the Bible to anyone?

Vital Sign #2: Loving Fellowship

- Do you have fellowship with God through Jesus?
- Are you working at building community with others?
- Is your “wish dream” of community hindering you from really experiencing genuine community?
- Do you love the idea of community more than the actual community?
- Are you complaining about the community rather than loving the community?
- Do you show up to events and meetings faithfully?
- Are you involved in one another’s lives throughout the week?
- Are you sensitive to the needs of your brothers and sisters?
- Are you grateful for your brothers and sisters? Have you told them?

Bonhoeffer: “The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer”

Vital Sign #3: Vibrant Worship

- Are you praising God with other brothers in sisters in large and small gatherings?
- How do you come to the Lord’s Table?
- Are you experiencing awe and joy?
- Are you praying with other brothers and sisters?
- Are you grateful for the privilege of gathering corporately?

“It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God’s Word and sacrament” (Bonhoeffer)

Vital Sign #4: Word & Deed Outreach

- **Word**: Are you practicing “Andrew” and “Philip” evangelism?
- **Deed**: How are you showing compassion and generosity both inside and outside the body?