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26 October 2014

**Components of a Healthy Church**

***Acts 2:42-46***

**Topic:** Church

**Subject:** What are the components of a healthy church?

**Complement:** A church must have commitments to the Bible, fellowship, the Lord’s Supper and prayer.

**Purpose:** The listeners will commit themselves to

# Introduction

### Interest: Various youths groups decided to have a boat race where each one needed to make their boats entirely from milk cartons. Each had to go out past a buoy and make it back in one-minute intervals with the one with the best time as the winner. However, as they went out they discovered that the milk cartons began to separate and the boats sink.

### Need: This is like the church—all have similar components but some make it better than others. How are we doing here?

### Subject: What are the components of a healthy church?

### Background: Peter had just finished his Pentecost sermon.

### Preview: The first believers were devoted to four commitments.

# I. They were committed to *the apostle’s teaching*.

## God’s Word was their foundation.

## The Bible is the “exhaled” word of God (2 Tim. 3:16).

## They didn’t yet have the NT but they used the OT and later the teachings of the apostles.

## Churches that preach the Word have a much higher rate of growth than those who don’t.

### In a church in Michigan, of 297 churches, only one was growing because it alone was the one that preached the Bible.

### Without this commitment, there is no urgency to tell people about the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. A church that has biblical growth must have the foundation in the Word of God.

# II. They were committed to *fellowship*.

## They got together enough to know one another’s needs.

## It is not simply eating snacks together after a service, but it is caring for each other.

## Acts 4:32 notes that all believers were one in heart and mind. They agreed on the direction they were going.

## God’s Spirit is the SuperGlue that holds us together.

# III. They were committed to the *breaking of bread*.

## This probably refers to the communion service.

## Many churches have a communion table with the words “In Remembrance of Me” etched on it. This points us to the past. Yet other churches have “until he comes,” pointing to the future.

## This is a *living* tradition. A tradition points us to the past but a living tradition points us to the future as well.

## The Lord’s Supper remembers not only the death of Christ but also the future when Christ will return.

## The early church was committed to a good view of tradition. We must, likewise, honor the past and look to the future.

# IV. They were committed to *prayer*.

## They had a common trust not in their own works but in Christ.

## We need both heart and hands—Christ brings people to church but only if we invite them.

## In some churches everything looks right (facilities, programs, etc.) but its not working—we must *ask* him to build it. The Koreans pray—but they also work hard! God honors this commitment.

# Conclusion

### What are the components of a healthy church?

### A church must have commitments to the Bible, fellowship, the Lord’s Supper and prayer.

### Not every church needs to be a *big* church, but every church should be a *growing* church.

### Of the 21 boats that went out into the lake, only one of them actually made it back to shore. Everyone crowded around and tried to figure out why. After over 30 minutes of Q&A, they discovered that only this raft was made with SuperGlue!

### Exhortation/Application