

Characteristics of the Church

**How to Describe the Church of Christ
of the New Testament**

**What do you tell people when they
ask you about the church you attend?**

Acts 2:42-47

Characteristics of the Church

Faithful to the Doctrine Acts 2:42
(The Apostles Teaching)

- **Philippians 3:17**
- **1 Corinthians 11:1-2**
- **2 Thessalonians 2:15**
- **2 Timothy 1:13**

Characteristics of the Church

Active Fellowship

Acts 2:42

- **Sense of belonging**
- **No one felt left out**
- **No one should feel lonely if they are a member of the body of Christ**

Characteristics of the Church

Breaking of Bread

Acts 2:42

- **Celebrated communion / the Lord's Supper every first day of the week**
- **Acts 20:7**
- **1 Corinthians 11:20-28**

Characteristics of the Church

Praying

Acts 2:42

- **Constant prayer (continued steadfastly)**
- **Acts 12:5-12 – an all night prayer meeting in Mary's house**
- **I Thessalonians 5:17**

Characteristics of the Church

Reverence (Fear)

Acts 2:43

- **Respect for God and His awesome power**
- **The church should have the fear of God in our hearts**

Characteristics of the Church

Stewardship

Acts 2:44-45

(Giving and Sharing)

- **Provided for those in need**
- **Used what they had for God's purpose and glory**

Characteristics of the Church

Daily Activity

Acts 2:46

- **Something was going on every day among the church**
- **Our buildings are under utilized**

Characteristics of the Church

United (One accord)

Acts 2:46

- **Unity must be based on God's Word – Ephesians 4:3-6**
- **Unity never compromised Truth**

Characteristics of the Church

Joy (Gladness)

Acts 2:46

- **Enjoyed eating together**
- **Loved each other and being together**

Characteristics of the Church

Focused Purpose

Acts 2:46

(Singleness of heart)

- **They knew their mission**
- **Matthew 28:18-20**

Characteristics of the Church

Praising God

Acts 2:47

- **Their worship was directed toward God, not entertaining each other with a performance**
- **Today people want a “feel good” church where they are the focus of attention, not God**

Characteristics of the Church

Respected

Acts 2:47

(Having favor with all the people)

(Enjoying the goodwill of all the people)

- **The community knew who they were and respected them**

Characteristics of the Church

Growing Daily

Acts 2:47

- Evangelism was normal and natural
 - Andrew and Philip were excited to share Jesus – John 1:40-45
- Why did they share the good news?
 - Want people to be saved and go to heaven
 - Don't want people to be lost and go to hell