

THE SIGNIFICANT CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST/THE CHURCH

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

Main Idea: Luke gives several significant descriptions of a healthy body of Christ, the Church.

1. Descriptions of the Church

1. Devotion to the Word (2:42a,43)
2. Devotion to one another (2:42b,44)
3. Devotion to the breaking of bread (2:42c,46)
4. Devotion to prayer (2:42d)
5. Radical generosity, especially within the church (2:45)
6. Constant interaction with one another (2:46a)
7. Gathering in both large and small groups (2:46b)
8. A spirit of awe, gladness, and praise to God (2:43a,46-47a)
9. Displaying an attractive faith (2:47b)
10. Daily evangelism (2:47c)

2. Checking Our Vital Signs

1. Vital sign 1: Biblical nourishment
2. Vital sign 2: Loving fellowship
3. Vital sign 3: Vibrant worship
4. Vital sign 4: Word and deed outreach

"one another" passages of a healthy Christian and a Healthy Body of Christ:

- to love **one another**. (John 13:34)
- We who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of **one another**. (Rom 12:5)
- Love **one another** deeply as brothers and sisters. (Rom 12: 10)
- Outdo **one another** in showing honor. (Rom 12: 10)
- Instruct **one another**. (Rom 15: 14)
- The members would have the same concern for **each other**. (1 Cor 12:25)
- Serve **one another** through love. (Gal 5:13)
- Carry **one another's** burdens. (Gal 6:2)
- With patience, bearing with **one another** in love. (Eph 4:2)
- Be kind and compassionate to **one another**. (Eph 4:32)
- Submitting to **one another** in the fear of Christ I give you a new command: Love **one another**. Just as I have loved you, you are also. (Eph 5:21)
- In humility consider **others** as more important than yourselves. (Phil 2:3)
- Do not lie to **one another**. (Col 3:9)
- Encourage **one another**. (1 Thess 4: 18)
- Always pursue what is good for **one another**. (1 Thess 5:15)
- Let us watch out for **one another** to provoke love and good works. (Heb 10:24)
- Don't criticize **one another**, brothers and sisters. (Jas 4:11)
- Do not complain about **one another**. (Jas 5:9)
- Confess your sins to **one another** and pray for **one another**, so that you may be healed. (Jas 5:16)
- Be hospitable to **one another** without complaining. (1 Pet 4:9)
- All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward **one another**. (1 Pet 5:5)
- Dear friends, let us love **one another**, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. (1 John 4:7)
- No one has ever seen God. If we love **one another**, God remains in us. (1 John 4: 12)