

PRACTICES of the Early Church ~ Acts 2:42-46

→ Scripture Reading - Acts 2:42-46

INTRODUCTION

Acts 2:42 (NIV) They devoted themselves to the apostles' TEACHING and to the FELLOWSHIP, to the BREAKING OF BREAD and to PRAYER.

CELEBRATION of the Lord's Supper - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

²³ For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord Himself. On the night when He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread ²⁴ and gave thanks to God for it. Then He broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is GIVEN for you. DO THIS to remember ME." ²⁵ In the same way, He took the cup of wine after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant between God and His people - an agreement CONFIRMED with MY blood. DO THIS to remember ME as OFTEN as you drink it." ²⁶ For every time you EAT this bread and DRINK this cup, you are ANNOUNCING the Lord's death until He comes again. (NLT)

IMPLICATIONS

When we take part in the Lord's Supper

- As OFTEN as we DO this
- EVERY TIME we Eat the Bread and Drink the Cup
- PROCLAIM His Death - Announce for ALL the hear
- WAIT Expectantly for His Coming

OBEDIENCE of Baptism - Acts 8:30-38

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip **began with that very passage** of Scripture and told him the GOOD NEWS about **Jesus**. ³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they **came to some water** and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?"

EVERYONE WHO HAS...

- **ADMITTED-** they are sinners and NEED a Savior

Romans 6:23 (NIV) For the WAGES of sin is death, but the GIFT of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- **By FAITH Accepted-** Jesus' offer of Forgiveness

Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV) For by grace you have been saved through FAITH. And this is NOT your own doing; it is the GIFT of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- **Seeking to SUBMIT** to God in Daily Obedience

Romans 6:13 (NIV) Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

SHARING in Supporting the CHURCH - Matthew 6:3-4

Luke 8:1, 3 (NIV) ...Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God...³...These women were helping to SUPPORT them out of their own means.

Matthew 27:55 (NIV)⁵⁵ Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to CARE for His needs.

Matthew 6:3-4 (NIV) But WHEN you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,⁴ so that your giving may be in secret...

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 (NIV) Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do.² On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV) Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

STEWARDSHIP acknowledges that **we do not have the CONTROL** over ourselves OR our property - **God has that control**. It means **as stewards** of God **we are managers** of that which BELONGS to God, and we are under His authority... gotquestions.org

Giving is

- a PRIVILEGE
- is WORSHIP
- is an INVESTMENT

Suggestions for GIVING...

- 1- Give REGULARLY
- 2- Decide on a PERCENTAGE to Give
- 3- As God Blesses Pray about Increasing Your Giving