



Pastor Paul Gilbert :: April 28, 2013

ICEBREAKER: Have people in the group talk about a time when they went somewhere with a group of friends where the group felt out of place. What was it like? What was uncomfortable? Now, have them talk about what would it have been like for them to be in that place without their friends. How much harder would that have been? Why?

Introduction: In our second message of this series, we are talking about how we are called to Grow as a Christian community. Acts 2 talks about five different foundations or ministries that we are called to commit ourselves to as a church family, and how these distinctives are meant to be lived out in Christian community.

1. Ministry of the Word – vs. 42

Discussion:

- a. When it says that the early church was committed to the Apostle’s teaching, what is this reference to? What constituted the content of their teaching?
- b. What are ways that both we as a church and you as an individual can be “devoted to the apostle’s teaching”?

2. Ministry of Worship – vs. 46

Discussion:

- a. Where did worship “happen” in the New Testament church? What characterized worship in these various settings?
- b. How should knowing the kind of gatherings that the NT church was committed to shape what we are committed to? Why is this so important? (Hint: what was the context in the early church that made gathering together so important?)

3. Ministry of Service – vs. 45-56

Discussion:

- a. Where was it that the early church invested their time and money?

- b. What should be our primary investment in the local church? What are practical ways that we make that happen?

4. Ministry of Generosity – vs. 45

Discussion:

- a. On what basis did the early church give generously to one another? Was it compulsory, or something else?
- b. If you were to measure your commitment to the local church through your giving, what would your giving communicate about the nature of your commitment?

5. Ministry of Leadership – vs. 42

Discussion:

- a. What were ways that leaders and lay folks demonstrated their commitment to one another in this passage?
- b. What do you believe God might be calling you to do in terms of growing in your leadership in the future?

Conclusion: It is through the external commitment of membership and the internal reality of “awe” that allows a community of believers to grow in grace together. Pray as a group about how you can help each other in these areas.