

THE CHURCH I WANT TO BE PART OF

Acts 2:42-47 and Selected Scriptures

January 4, 2015 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

WHAT IS A LOCAL CHURCH?

A Definition:

The local church is a community of regenerated believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord. In obedience to Scripture they organize under qualified leadership, gather regularly for preaching and worship, observe the biblical sacraments of baptism and Communion, are unified by the Spirit, are disciplined for holiness, and scatter to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission as missionaries to the world for God's glory and their joy.

– Gerry Breshears & Mark Driscoll

A FEW THINGS THE CHURCH IS NOT:

1. The church is not **A BUILDING.**
2. The church is not **A SINGLE DENOMINATION.**
3. The church is not **A BUSINESS.**
4. The church is not **A COUNTRY CLUB.**
5. The church is not **HERE TO MEET YOUR NEEDS.**
6. The church is not **YOUR TICKET TO HEAVEN.**

A LOOK AT THE EARLY CHURCH (ACTS 2:42-47)

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

THE CHURCH I WANT TO BE PART OF:

HOMework



Open Your Group in Prayer. Use the Prayer Guide on the next page for Suggestions.

Opening Discussion

1. What are you “devoted” to? — Not sure? Ask yourself a couple questions and you can probably figure it out: A) What takes up your time? Look at your calendar, what are some of your time priorities? B) What do you spend your money on? Look at your bank account, where/on what do you spend your money?
2. Is there anything that you’re devoted to on a daily basis? A daily devotion?

Read Acts 2:42-47.

3. What do you notice about this description of the early church? What stands out?
4. Have you read the back story? If not, go back and read through all of **Acts, Chapter 2**. What happens at the end of Peter’s sermon? (v. 37-41)
5. Take some time to look at the demographics of this local church. How big was the church? What was the make-up of it’s people? How did people become part of the church? Where did they meet? What challenges would they have faced?
6. Knowing the back story, how does this influence your understanding of the description of the church in **v. 42-47**?
7. What similarities do you see between the early church and Wawasee Bible? What differences do you see?
8. Pastor Josh mentioned that v. 42-47 is a *descriptive* passage not a *prescriptive* one. What did he mean by this? Why is that important to understand when comparing the similarities and differences between the early church and Wawasee Bible?

The Church God Wants You To Be Part Of

9. Look back at the definition of a local church on page 1 of the message notes. Also, review the list of things a church is not. – How do you view the local church? What are some ways you might view the church wrongly?
10. This week’s message was titled, “*The Church I Want to Be Part Of*”. What are you doing to help make this vision a reality at Wawasee Bible? Where/who are you serving? How are you helping? How could you get involved? If everyone was as committed as you, what would/could Wawasee Bible look like? — ***How will you be part of the church in 2015?***

