

Long Story Short

The Church

Acts 2:42-47

The Church *Ekklesia* means “Called out people.”

³ *And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my ekklesia, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. (Matthew 16:18)*

The church becomes the church when we begin to Understand that we are a “called-out people” and do Christ’s mission to “make disciples of all nations” (Reach People and Build Lives).

The essentials that the “called out ones” are to do (the mission) are:

Worship for the purpose of Restoration.

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. (Acts 2:42-43)

The daily Offering our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God.

Study for the purpose of Transformation.

They devoted themselves to the apostle’s teaching... (Acts 2:42)

Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds. (Romans 12:2)

The daily study to Transform us on the inside to impact our words and actions.

Service for the purpose of Incarnation.

They devoted themselves to the apostle’s teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...they gave to anyone as he had need. (Acts 2:42, 44)

The daily Display of Jesus through the use of our gifts and resources.

Fellowship for the purpose of Edification.

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer....They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. (Acts 2:42,46b)

The daily Building Up of the body (the called ones) through loving fellowship.

The unifying power for these disciples then and for us today to do this mission through these essentials is the presence of Jesus Christ in *ekklesia* through the Holy Spirit and “**the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**” the Resurrected One and the Anointed One (Messiah).