

THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN FAITH

Spring 2017 – WEEK 5 – The Church & Christian Faith

☉ Terms:

-Theology (*theos* = God, *logia* = study of) – the study of God, the nature of the divine, and the specifics of religious thought.

-Doctrine – what a person or group believes the whole Bible teaches about any particular topic.

-The Church – the community of believers throughout every age (*Hebrews 11-12* = “a cloud of witnesses”)

☉ **What is a biblical church?** (*Jn 4:24, Acts 1:8; 2:42-47; 4:32-35, Eph 6:18; 4:3, Col 1:8, 1 Tim 3, Tit 1, Jam 5:13-18*)

***A biblical church displays **all** of these characteristics:

- **submission** to Christ as the head of the Church
- presence of the **Holy Spirit**
- regular **meetings** together
- effective **prayer**
- **biblical** study and sound **doctrine**
- genuine **worship**
- administration of the **sacraments**
- **community**, fellowship, and mutual edification
- **care** for the needs of others
- consistent global **witness**
- integrity in **leadership**
- a healthy **structure**

Acts 2:42-47: They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 4:32-35: All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

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