



**BATTLEGROUND**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

**Bible Study Guide**  
**Sunday, February 10, 2019**

## **Distinct Community**

**Sermon Text:** Ephesians 5:1-21

**Study Texts:** Acts 2:42-47

**Sermon Recap:** In this portion of the letter to the Ephesians, Paul is showing us both the command for godliness and the fruits that such godliness produces both within the church and within the larger culture. In the first portion, vv.1-17, Paul develops and deals with a number of topics related to godliness. The entire passage rests on his command in v. 1, *“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.”* Everything rests upon this command being taken to heart. He goes to call the church to a life of love, light, and wisdom. To state it differently, Paul calls the church, together in community, to lives of holiness. We see this clearly in v. 18 where Paul contrasts being drunk with wine versus being filled with the Holy Spirit. The only controlling authority in the Christian’s life should be the Holy Spirit, Who works all things unto the glory of God. When the people of God are indwelt by the Spirit of God, they will shine as gospel lights in the sin-darkened world.

**Sermon Connection:** Having considered much of what Paul said to the Philippians about life together in gospel community, we want to reconsider the text where we began our study: Acts 2:42-47. Here we find a number of things. First, it is important to note that we are being given a glimpse into the birth of the New Testament Church; to Church to which we belong even now. She is an ancient institution who perseveres by God’s grace. Second, we note this is a community on display. As we read through Luke’s descriptions it is not hard to see that something wonderfully supernatural is at work in the lives of these people; in the life of this first church. And so, as we read this text we want to ask, what makes this gospel community distinct, and why?

### **Lesson Plan**

**Lesson Goal:** To see how the gospel of Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, creates and shapes true gospel community.

## **Lesson Points:**

### **1 - Distinct Gospel Community (vv.42-47)**

**The Context:** The book of Acts (short for Acts of the Apostles) is actually part 2 of a story. It is the second part, or the follow-up, to Luke's gospel message. Throughout Luke's gospel, he develops many themes about Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit. And, in the book of Acts, we find Luke explaining and fleshing out the work of the Holy Spirit of which he had formerly spoken. One of the most tangible expressions of the power of the Holy Spirit in the formation and faithful life of true gospel community.

#### **Point 1 - Distinct Gospel Community.** (vv. 42-47)

- What are some of the striking/surprising elements of this community?
- What is this community like? How would describe the nature of this community (besides their actions)?
- Why do you think this community of Christians lived this way? Read Acts 2:37-41.
- Read the passage and ask, "What are they doing?" Make a list...
- Which of these activities might conflict with our modern culture, and why?
- Why is important to remember that all this activity is happening in the context of the gospel community and not individually?

#### **Group Reflection Activity** - Neighborhood Engagement

##### **Application Questions**

- What would have to change for our growth group to become an Acts 2 gospel community?
- What change(s) would I have to make personally to help this?
- What has to change in my heart?
- What part can I play in contributing to the flourishing of my growth group in an Acts 2 manner?

##### **Group Activity:**

- Neighborhood Engagement - Plan a Neighborhood Engagement event together with your group.
  - Something tangible and measurable.