

Stone Fire Community

an online church

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- an online church

What is Church? What is a Biblical model for the Church?

The best description is the Exploding Church
after the baptism of the Holy Spirit
in the book of Acts 2.41-47 (below)

The Church is the visible presence of Christ on earth...
The Body of Christ!

A Model for the Church

41 Then those people who **accepted** what Peter said were **baptized**. About three thousand people were added to the number of believers that day.

42 They spent their time learning the **apostles' teaching, sharing, breaking bread, and praying together**.

43 The apostles were doing **many miracles and signs**, and **everyone** felt **great respect for God**.

44 All the believers were **together and shared everything**.

45 They would **sell their land** and the things they owned and then **divide the money and give it to anyone who needed it**. (no stokvel or social work agency needed ;)

46 The believers **met together in the Temple every day**. They **ate together in their homes**, happy to **share their food** with **joyful hearts**.

47 They **praised God** and were **liked by all** the people. **Every day the Lord added** those who were being saved to the group of believers.

- Acts 2.43-47 [#1]

LEGEND:

Black bold words = Believers actions

Red bold words = Results/impact

About Us?

To keep it REALLY very simple... Christ-Centric, Biblical and practical...

We hang together...

*to Love God (with all our heart, soul and strength) and
to Love others as we
Love ourselves. (*2)*

*As we meet, we find God present with us.
We get to know Him deeper and
Find ways to make him known.*

How do we do this practically?

- * Teaching * Fellowship * Sharing (meals and the Lord's supper)
- * Prayer * Meeting together in one place/space (each day) – even in your local “temple” or an online “temple” (*an online group to fellowship with*).
- * Sharing “*everything they had*” (property, possessions, money/wealth) – even selling property to meet others needs.
- * Meeting in homes to share the Lord's supper – “Breaking bread” - and sharing meals.
- * Praising God * Enjoying goodwill with people around us
- * Miracles, signs and wonders will that confirm God is with us, confirming the word we teach and share. ***The signs and wonders are the natural consequence of God showing up and inviting us to his banqueting table – and can be our daily experience.***

Does this scare you just a little bit?

It should! This type of community is not just *very radical*, it is *desperately needed* in the world. People are hungry for genuine connection. Authentic caring. This is a spontaneous, Spirit-created and alternative response to capitalism, rugged individualism, socialism, communism, poverty and related crime.

This Church model is also as an alternative to our individualistic society and the greedy pursuit of fame, power and wealth – the food and incentives of dictators and many capitalists.

Is this all?

Everything else the **Holy Spirit will teach us (personally, privately & as we meet)**, out of hunger for God's will and His Kingdom.

Some nuts & bolts

No membership - we are already the Body of Christ at re-birth. The word member is “banned” as it mostly conveys the wrong concept of what the church is and what we are here for. We are not members of a club of “do-gooders” - we are disciples of Christ!

No credit cards - it's all free ;)

No on-boarding or orientation or indoctrination - we will get what we need when we need it, as we ask for Holy Spirit guidance – and have conversations in the community.

No waiting – a new believer will / may be baptised on the day they are saved AND? Yes, we pray for the new believer to get baptised in the Holy Spirit(ps. All on day one! If at all possible. For example you are at work and in lunch hour on 77th floor you lead a colleague to Christ. No river. No sea close. No bath tub. Ten minutes to get back to work! Then we do it tonight or asap :)

No law - we are in the age of grace, saved by grace. Christ's love and sacrifice fulfils all the requirements of the law.

**You are the Church, the Body of Christ.
We are the Church, the Body of Christ.
It makes no difference if we meet
in a “temple”,
a coffee shop or
anywhere in the sky,
we remain the Body of Christ.**

Nor does it make any difference if we come
from different local, national or global churches.
When we meet anywhere
we remain the Body of Christ!

The church is where we are and is also manifest instantly when we meet.
"Where two or three ... there I am in the midst" – Jesus (Mat 18.20)

That's it!
So? Welcome to the
Stone Fire Community
- part of the Body of Christ

NOTES:

#1. What is the Church? What is the Biblical model of Church?

a) The Believers Share

- Acts 2.41-47 *The Holy Bible, New Century Version, Copyright © 2005 Thomas Nelson*

b) Video: "What Is the Church?" An Explanation for Kids <https://youtu.be/INsNTdaBIG8>

#2. Jesus and the greatest commandment....

36“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” 37And Jesus replied to him, “ ‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ 38This is the first and greatest commandment. 39The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF [that is, unselfishly seek the best or higher good for others].’ 40The whole Law and the [writings of the] Prophets depend on these two commandments.” - *Matthew 22.36-40 AMP (Mark 12.29-33 and Luke 10.25-29; in the Old Testament. Lev 19.18; Deut 6.4*