

Faithful and Loyal

Acts 2:42-47

- Two thousand years ago Christ's church was first established in the city of Jerusalem.
- Peter's inspired message had convinced the Jews that they had crucified the very Messiah that they had been waiting for, and they were pierced to the heart – Acts 2:37-38.
- 3,000 souls gladly received the word and were baptized that day – Acts 2:41.
- This was the beginning of the church of Christ.
- Let's look at what characterized the first congregation.

Faithful In Doctrine

- The apostles' doctrine – Jn. 14:26; Mat. 28:18-20; 1 Cor. 2:2.
- Acts 2:46 – Their devotion was daily, in the temple & house to house.
- Heb. 6:10 – Later, when weakness came, they were reminded of their “labor of love.”
- Phil. 1:27 – Only when we stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, can we strive together for the faith of the Gospel!

Faithful In Fellowship

- Acts 2:42 – Fellowship is supportive of doctrine!
- 1 Jn. 1:1-4 – It was important to the apostles & to the early church.
- Ecc. 4:9-12 – There is strength in fellowship.
- Phil. 1:5-7 – There is joy & courage in fellowship.

Faithful In Worship

- Acts 2:42 – In breaking of bread... (compare Acts 20:7 & 1 Cor. 10:16).
- Acts 2:42 – Faithful to pray – Lk. 18:1; Rom. 12:12.
- Faithful to assemble – Heb. 10:25.
- 2 Cor. 8:4 – Giving is also “fellowship” (also 2 Cor. 9:13).

- Psa. 122:1 – Shouldn't we be as glad as David?

Faithful In Service

- Jn. 13:15-17 – Service shows an understanding of discipleship & brings happiness!
- Lk. 10:38-42 – Not all service is equal! (Compare Lk. 16:10-13).
- Rom. 12:11 – Serving the Lord is the highest & noblest service.
- Gal. 5:13 – a faithful church serves in love.
- Eph. 6:7 “with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men.”

Decision...

- Acts 2:47 & 4:32 – the result of their steadfastness was regular growth & unity of heart and soul!
- Acts 8:1-4 – Later, under intense persecution, their steadfastness paid dividends in the spread of the church!
- They were unstoppable because they were faithful & loyal!
- Let this be our goal – the first century is past, but the first century church can still live on.
- Let us, too, be of one heart and one soul...
- Where do you stand, today?
- ARE YOU “TRUE HEARTED, WHOLE HEARTED, FAITHFUL AND LOYAL”?

“Forgive Me When I Whine”

Today upon a bus I saw a lovely maiden with golden hair;
I envied her—so beautiful, and how, I wished I were so fair;
When suddenly she rose to leave, I saw her hobble down the aisle;
 She had one foot and wore a crutch,
 but as she passed, she wore a smile
 Oh God, forgive me when I whine,
 I have two feet –the world is mine

And when I stopped to buy some sweets,
 the lad who served me had such charm;
he seemed to radiate good cheer, his manner was so kind and
 warm;
I said, “it’s nice to deal with you, such courtesy I seldom find;”
 He turned and said, “Oh, thank you sir.”
 And then I saw that he was blind.
 Oh, God, forgive me when I whine,
 I have two eyes, the world is mine.

Then when walking down the street,
 I saw a child with eyes of blue;
He stood and watched the others play,
 it seemed he knew not what to do;
 I stopped a moment, then I said,
“Why don’t you join the others, dear?”
 He looked ahead without a word,
 I realized –he could not hear.
 Oh God, forgive me when I whine,
 I have two ears, the world is mine

With feet to take me where I’d go,
 with eyes to see the sunsets glow,
with ears to hear what I would know,
 I am blessed indeed.
The world is mine Oh God, forgive me when I whine.

~Author Unknown