

Lessons From The Jerusalem Church

Introduction. In a 2015 Business Insider article, Movehub, an international moving company, put together a fantastic infographic that shows us what matters most to people all over the world. Different cultures give way to many different interpretations of life and the many desires therein. The U.S. chooses life satisfaction, Mexico chooses education, and Canada chooses health as what matters most to them.

Spiritually, what matters most is reflected in the examples of first century Christians and in the priorities they placed in their work as servants of God. This is shown in the Jerusalem church (Acts 2:41-47). There are five considerable lessons we learn from these first century Christians.

I. Worship Matters

- A. From the book of Acts we learn that they assembled on the first day of the week to take communion, to praise God, and to worship as Jesus and His apostles taught (Matthew 4:10; Acts 24:14; Revelation 14:7).
- B. There is an inborn urge in each person to worship. If we don't worship Jehovah, we will find something else to worship. It could be a job, family, money, sports, or even ourselves! But God wants us to worship Him.
- C. In the New Testament, that undertaking occurs in five different ways:
 1. Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34).
 2. Giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7).
 3. Singing (Colossians 3:16; Matthew 26:30).
 4. Praying (Acts 12:5, 12; 20:36; 21:5).
 5. Devotion to the word (Matthew 11:5; Acts 8:5).
- D. From this we learn that Christians need to be need in worship (no experiencing "spirituality" simply in the mind, Hebrews 10:25) and we need to do worship right (Psalm 95:1-6; 100:1-5). In genuine worship, God is honored, our spirits are exalted, the saints are edified, and unbelievers are enlightened.

II. Discipleship Matters

- A. To be a disciple is to be a learner, a pupil, and a follower of Jesus (Acts 11:26, 29). God wants every believer to become like Christ (1 Peter 2:21).
- B. Discipleship is characterized by:
 1. Putting Jesus first (John 12:26).
 2. Following Jesus' teaching (John 8:31-32; 10:27).
 3. Fruitfulness in the work of Jesus (John 15:5-8).
 4. Loving other disciples like Jesus (John 13:34-35).
- C. We need to provide opportunities to grow (cp. Matthew 28:19-20, "teaching" = "discipling"). Paul put great emphasis on teaching (Acts 17:2-3; 18:5-8; 19:9).
 1. While learning is important to spiritual growth, reaching your goal of spiritual maturity is measured more by lifestyle, character, and integrity.
 2. As you evaluate yourself, are you changing? Are there sins or places of temptation that you have greater control over than you did in the past? Do you spend more time thinking of your spirituality and perhaps expressing it to other people?