

## ETERNAL IMPACT

### Little Boy and His Dad

Critical Questions—what is Church? To Whom does it belong? What is its purpose? And how does it relate to my “eternal impact?” All four questions answered by simple definition. Church is covenant community of born again believers designed and empowered by King for the reaching of the nations.

Let’s look at the church as designed by King.

#### 1. United in Prayer and Empowered by Spirit

Acts 1:14 gives us the first clue. They were united in prayer. Prayer was life breath of NT church. After Peter and John are released from jail, they have a prayer meeting (4:31). Notice that prayer is directly connected to empowering by the Spirit (2:1). Primary role of HS in Acts is boldness for witness (4:31).

#### 2. Teaches Sound Doctrine

Acts 2:42 indicates they were “devoted” to the apostles teaching. Notice Acts 11:26—they taught new believers for entire year before they were called Christians. What is level of your commitment to doctrinal teaching?

#### 3. Expands Worship to the Ends of the Earth

Acts 2:46 tells us something about their passion for corporate worship. Later, Acts 13:2 indicates that idea of commissioning Barnabas and Paul was given by Spirit as they were “ministering to the Lord.” Primary goal of worship is to minister to the Lord. Reference to breaking bread “from house to house” in 2:46 may speak to consistency and intimacy of the worship of early church. But notice true worship will lead naturally to mission—concern that all nations worship Him. Worship cannot be contained.

#### 4. Intentionally Evangelistic

Evangelism emanates from the Acts 1:8 challenge. Evangelism takes two forms in early church—spontaneous and strategic. They seized every kingdom opportunity. Pentecost and its visible and audible signs created quite a stir so Peter preaches. The healing of the lame man leads to arrest which in turn leads to another preaching opportunity (4:8). But the strategic nature of the Pauline missionary journey’s indicate a strategic plan for reaching known world. Every church must have a strategy for equipping laymen, discovering prospects, touching their entire community, and taking advantage of every kingdom opportunity.

#### 5. Nurtures Biblical Fellowship

Acts 2:42 indicates they were “devoted to fellowship. Acts 2:44 speaks of them “being together.” Can’t have fellowship without being together. But true fellowship is more

than pot luck meal or occasional SS outing. Acts 2:45 tells us that they generously met the needs of others. Acts 4:34 indicates there was not needy person among them (put this in context of being ostracized by their family.)

#### 6. Generous Stewardship

We saw the first hint of generosity in Acts 2:44-45. But let's take a glance at Acts 11:29. This global famine would come to Antioch, but this church joyously shares with the saints in Jerusalem. This was beginning of a grand offering not unlike our cooperative program (Romans 15:26).

#### 7. Global Mission Strategy

Strategy formulated by Risen King in Acts 1:8. The local church is the hub of global church planting movement. Believers from Jerusalem planted church at Antioch (Acts 11:19-20). This church sent Barnabas and Saul into neighboring regions (13:2-3).

#### 8. Works Cooperatively for Kingdom Advance

The global strategy of the local church mandates that the church work value and nurture cooperation. We must discover like-minded partners and develop a strategic plan that enables every church to participate according to its ability. Explain the offering of 1 Cor. 16 and 2 Cor. 8 and 9.