

Logan Reynolds
First Belton
August 24, 2025

Series: We ARE Church
Title: We Are Worshipers
Text(s): [John 14:6](#), Acts 2:42-47

INTRODUCTION

Good morning, great to be with you all this morning! As you walked in you may have noticed that things are a bit different. As you know, we want to continue growing in our hospitality as a church. To do that, we are undergoing a bit of a “refresh” in our look. You will notice that we have updated our website, our socials, and our signage so that we can provide a better experience for you and our guests, because we want this place to feel like home for anyone who enters our doors or checks us out online so that we can lead all generations to know and follow Jesus.

Over the last few weeks, we have been asking – what is the Church? So far, we have defined what it means to be a Christian and the Church. As we have seen, the Church is not a gathering or an event, but a people. Now, as the people gather, I want you to think about this: Is the gathering a revival or is it a reunion?

Growing up, we never really did family reunions. Except for one year, one side of my family all got to celebrate my great, great, grandmother’s birthday; she was turning 101 years old. There were a ton of people who were there – aunts, uncles, and cousins - most of whom I had never met or even known existed. Yet, we all gathered to fellowship, eat, share stories, and celebrate the life of the one who united us all together.

The point here is that while some traditions have typically understood the gathering as a revival, it is really a reunion. The Church is God’s family. Every time we get together, we fellowship, share stories, and celebrate the ONE who has brought us all together and united us all.

The cool thing about this family, though, is that, while my family is exclusive to bloodline, God’s family and His table is open to all who accept His invitation to come. So, God’s table is inclusive in that all are welcome; but it is exclusive in that the only way you can come is if you join the family through His Son, Jesus. Of this, Jesus says, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6).”* Jesus is the way to God; He reveals the truth about God, and He offers life in God to all who except His invitation to join His family.

So, what does the family do when it gathers?

Grab your Bibles and turn with me to Acts 2:42-47. In this passage, Luke gives us a picture of what this looks like.

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs

were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together to breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."

I love this passage because of how Luke describes the way the earliest Christians "did" church. Keep in mind what has gotten them here. God has just done a radical thing – He sent Jesus, they believed, and Jesus has returned to the Father. Just after He leaves, a revival of the Spirit of God breaks out in Jerusalem and Luke tells us that 3000 people repented of their sin and believed the gospel. Thus, the first church in Jerusalem was formed.

Now, as we unpack this passage, I want you to **notice what they did**, but also take note of their **attitude, posture, and practice** as they gathered.

1. They were devoted (v. 42)

Luke tells us that they continually devoted themselves to three things: 1) Growing in God's Word 2) Growing with one another, 3) Growing in dependence of God through prayer.

To be devoted to something means *"to feel a strong loyalty, affection, or dedication toward a thing. It implies directing all time, energy, and other resources to the object of one's devotion."*

Illustration: Think about sports fans – they are devoted. They buy clothing, show up hours early, stay late, are willing to stand in ridiculous line with people they have never met, endure the elements, and pay lots of money all to cheer on their team. And no one has to force them to do it – they are eagerly devoted. Do you have that kind of devotion for God?

What do your time, energy, and money say you're devoted to? These things will lead back to what we are devoted to.

2. They lived in awe of God (v. 43)

v. 43, *"And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles."*

Awe is short for awesome. We use this word for everything like, "That taco was awesome", "She is awesome", "The cowboys are... not awesome". We use it for everything, but have you considered what it means? Awesome is *"to be filled with a profound sense of wonder, perspective, or fear – especially at something great, majestic, or powerful."*

Awe is that feeling you get when you stand at the base of a mountain or sit and stare at the expanse of the ocean. Awe is that feeling when you see the spark of lightning fill the sky or the loud clap of thunder roll through the clouds. It is that feeling when you feel the warmth of the sun on a cold day, or the thousands of stars covering the canvas of the night's sky. Guys, it is that feeling when you see *the* girl. Or that "aha" moment when everything seems to come together.

Paul Tripp puts it like this:

“God created an Awesome world. And he intended for you to be daily amazed. But if awesome things in creation become your god, the God who created those things will not own your awe. Horizontal awes are meant to do one thing – stimulate vertical awe. Every awesome thing in creation is designed to point you to the ONE who alone is worthy of capturing and controlling the awe of your searching and hungry heart. A misplaced awe keeps us perennially dissatisfied. When awe of self, replaces awe of God, praise will be rare, and grumbling will be plentiful.”

Awe of God is meant to rule our hearts and then order everything else accordingly. Worship is living our whole lives in awe of God. The early church didn’t gather to be entertained, they gathered to be amazed. They came hungry for God.

As you think about your week, who or what has captured your awe? Want to restore your awe? Slow down, put the phone away, and look up and around you. Get out in the sun, look up at the stars at night, take a deep breath, go for a walk, listen to the birds, spend meaningful time with friends and family.

3. They were being transformed (v. 44-47a)

Look at this: *⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in **common**. ⁴⁵And they were **selling their possessions and belongings** and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, **attending the temple together to breaking bread in their homes**, they received their food with **glad and generous hearts**, ⁴⁷**praising God and having favor with all the people**.*

Notice this: as they devoted themselves to growing in God’s Word, growing together, and growing in dependence on God through prayer, they were being transformed.

They were unified – differences didn’t divide them. While they all had different preferences and ideas for how they should gather, what they should sing, what they should wear, they focused on the ONE they had in common and over their differences.

They were sacrificially generous – they were selling their stuff to fund the ministry of the church. No one had to ask them to do it; generosity is an overflow of worship.

They lived in community – they worshipped together, they ate together, and laughed together, and they leaned into one another for support.

They were grateful – As they gathered, they received their food with glad hearts. They didn’t complain; they were just grateful for the Lord’s provision.

They were a blessing – the community loved them because they blessed the community. The community was better because they were in it.

I want you to think about this: Does this describe your life? Do you work to promote unity in our church? Are you sacrificially generously to fund the mission of our church? Are you living in deep relationships with others? Are you grateful or always complaining? Are you being a blessing to the community? If not, it's probably because you are devoted to the wrong things and have lost your awe.

4. They positioned themselves for growth (v. 47b)

⁴⁷And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."

We all know this to be true - healthy things grow. Think about a healthy tree. If you water and nurture a tree, growth happens naturally. The same is true with the church. A healthy church grows. However, notice who is doing the action here. God is. The difference between a tree and the church, is that growth is not promised. We do our part and as we do, we trust God for growth.

Illustration: Think about farming. A farmer can plow the ground, plant the seed, water the soil, and pull the weeds. He can do everything right. But he cannot make a single seed sprout. Only God can send the sun and the rain. Only God can bring life out of the ground.

The same is true for our church. We can do all the right things – but what we can't do is make someone believe, nor can we manufacture growth. Our job is to go to work and do the absolute best we can with what we have and trust God for the increase. What we can't do is sit back and be lazy and expect God to bless our church. No, we must go to work and position ourselves for God to bless and grow our church.

CONCLUSION

Here is the picture – The church is a gathering of worshippers who are devoted, in awe, being transformed, and growing. This is what we want to be as a church. So, let's not just *attend* church, let's *be* the church. Let's be worshippers who are devoted, in awe, are being transformed, and ask the Lord for growth.