

“What’s Love Got To Do With It?”

Part Four: “Loving Your Church More”

Acts 2:40-47 (CEV)

Acts 2:40-47 ⁴⁰“Peter said, ‘I beg you to save yourselves from what will happen to all these evil people.’ ⁴¹On that day about three thousand believed his message and were baptized. ⁴²They spent their time learning from the apostles, and they were like family to each other. They also broke bread and prayed together. ⁴³Everyone was amazed by the many miracles and wonders that the apostles worked. ⁴⁴All the Lord’s followers often met together, and they shared everything they had. ⁴⁵They would sell their property and possessions and give the money to whoever needed it. ⁴⁶Day after day they met together in the temple. They broke bread together in different homes and shared their food happily and freely, ⁴⁷while praising God. Everyone liked them, and each day the Lord added to their group others who were being saved.” (Contemporary English Version)

1. You’ll Want To Spend Together

Hebrews 10:25 “Some people have gotten out of the habit of meeting for worship but we must not do that...especially since you know that the day of the Lord’s coming is getting closer.” (CEV)

20/30/20/30 Principle - In the average U.S. congregation: 20% will attend church every Sunday this month; 30% will attend church 2-3 Sundays this month; 20% will attend church 1 Sunday this month; 30% will not attend church at all this month.

2. You’ll For One Another

Jude 3 “My dear friends, I was doing my best to write to you about the salvation we share in common, when I felt the need of writing at once to encourage you to fight on for the faith which once and for all God has given to His people.” (Good News Bible)

3. You’ll Do Your Part To Out

Ephesians 4:16 “The whole body depends on Christ, and all the parts of the body are joined and held together. Each part does its own work to make the whole body grow and be strong with love.” (NCV)

80/20 Principle - In the average congregation, 80% of the work is done by 20% of the people while the remaining 20% of the work is done by the remaining 80% of the people.

4. You’ll Folks To Come Over

Luke 14:23 “Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.” (NKJV)

Chris Walker (Evangelism Coach Int’l): We’ve asked more than 50,000 people over the last 10 years why they came to church, and 75%-90% say, ‘I began attending because someone invited me.’ Those friends and relatives are critical to the growth of churches. They far outweigh factors like the facilities, music, preaching, or children’s ministry - people may stay because of these things, but they come because someone they knew invited them.”

5. You’ll So Others Can Benefit

2 Corinthians 8:1-4 ¹“Now I want to tell you, dear brothers and sisters, what God in His kindness has done for the churches in Macedonia. ²Though they have been going through much trouble and hard times, their wonderful joy and deep poverty have overflowed in rich generosity. ³For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford but far more. And they did it of their own free will. ⁴They begged us again and again for the gracious privilege of sharing in the gift for the Christians in Jerusalem.” (New Living Translation)

Barna Research Group: In 2009, the average church in America lost 14% of its budget, 65% of churches were negatively impacted by the economy, 21% of churches reduced their spending, 18% of churches reduced staff positions or salaries and 5%-7% of adults actually tithe.

