

## **Acts 2:42-47**

**42** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43** Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. **44** All the believers were together and had everything in common. **45** They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. **46** Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, **47** praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

**Main Idea:** Being a counter-culture church means living out Christian values and beliefs in a way that challenges societal norms and trends, prioritizing faith over fear and obedience over conformity.

- 1. Members of the early church were blurring the lines between autonomy and community.**
- 2. Radical generosity was a feature of the early church.**

### **1. Members of the early church were blurring the lines between autonomy and community.**

**Vs. 44** All the believers were together and had everything in common.

- Members of the early church were blurring the lines between autonomy and community.
  - "Together" implies unity and proximity.
  - "Everything in common" implies that the early church were living as stewards rather than owners.

### **2. Radical generosity was a feature of the early church.**

**Vs. 45** They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

- Radical generosity was not a bug, it was a feature of the early church.
- Radical generosity is giving so generously that it transforms lives and challenges the status quo of self-centeredness.

"The early church was strikingly different from the culture around it in this way – the pagan society was stingy with its money and promiscuous with its body. A pagan gave nobody their money and practically gave everybody their body. And the Christians came along and gave practically nobody their body and they gave practically everybody their money." ~Tim Keller

### **Practical Takeaways:**

1. Live your faith in ways that challenge the prevailing values of our modern culture.
2. Explore radical generosity.

**Small Group Questions:** These questions are designed to facilitate meaningful discussions within your small group, encouraging members to delve deeper into the sermon's themes and consider practical applications to their own lives.

1. **Autonomy vs. Community:** What does it mean to live in unity and proximity with fellow believers in today's individualistic society?
2. **Living as Stewards:** How might a shift from ownership to stewardship impact our attitudes toward possessions and resources?
3. **Radical Generosity:** What challenges or barriers do you face when considering radical generosity, and how can they be overcome?
4. **Challenging Modern Culture:** Discuss practical ways in which the church can challenge prevailing values and norms of our modern culture.
5. **Transformative Giving:** Reflect on the quote by Tim Keller: "Radical generosity is giving so generously that it transforms lives and challenges the status quo of self-centeredness." How can we practice transformative giving?