



“The First Church”

Acts 2:36-47 ♦ Pastor Jim Lennon
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Introduction – After Peter’s sermon three thousand people repented, believed in Jesus, were baptized, received the Holy Spirit and were added to the church. The first church can show us a model for what the church is, and what the church does.

I. A Picture of the Church.

- A. The Greek word for “church” is “ekklesia, which means “assembly.”
- B. The people who believed and received Peter’s word that Jesus was Lord, and the Christ, became the first church.
- C. What is the church? It is an assembly of people who have believed in Jesus as their Savior and Lord.
 - 1. They are forgiven.
 - 2. They have received the Holy Spirit.
 - 3. They have been baptized in Jesus’ name.
 - 4. They become part of something greater together than they were individually.

II. A Template for the Church.

- A. They were “devoted.” (Acts 2:42)
 - 1. . . . To the apostle’s teaching.
 - 2. . . . To fellowship.
 - 3. . . . To the breaking of bread.
 - 4. . . . To prayer.
- B. They devoted themselves to God and to each other.

III. Why the Church Exists.

- A. The Lord was adding to their number. What was the Church doing?
- B. First, they were being Jesus’ witnesses. (Acts 1:8)
- C. Second, they were living lives that reflected Jesus. (Acts 2:46-47)
- D. Their lives attracted people to Jesus, and it changed the world.

Conclusion.