



BUILDING THE CHURCH

HOW WE ACT TOGETHER

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The book of Acts is written by Luke and describes the spread of Christianity from its origins with Jews in Jerusalem, to eventually include all peoples. “Acts of the Risen Jesus” might also be an appropriate name for this book. Luke tells us that his first book (the Gospel of Luke) was “about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven” (Acts 1:1-2). Acts is the second volume of Luke’s writing. It is about what Jesus did after his ascension into heaven; He directed and taught the apostles through the Holy Spirit. The story is filled with drama, miracles, and testimonies about the risen Christ.

When we come together to be the Body of Christ, we reflect God’s character and shine his light into the world. The early church was not a building but a movement of people who turned the world upside down with their love.

The church was:

Inclusive (Acts 15:7-11)

In Acts 15, Peter reminds the church members that the ground is level at the foot of the cross. There is no earning our way into the Kingdom. The truth is that all of us receive the gift of grace through faith in Christ. Through the book of Acts, we see a multiethnic international church that sent missionaries throughout the world to share the good news of Jesus.

Intentional (Acts 18:24-28)

The early Christians were intentional in their pursuit of knowing God’s true character. They did not participate in cancel culture, but provided support and challenge to one another. In Acts 18:24-28, we see a new leader, Apollos, passionately sharing the good news. However, seasoned leaders Priscilla and Aquila noticed that he did not have full understanding of the gospel message, so they approached Apollos. They were not only intentional in pursuing their individual understanding of God, but recognized that our understanding is sharpened in living and sharing the gospel in community.

Passionate (Acts 4:29-35)

A passionate posture is courageously and boldly proclaiming the good news of Christ. In Acts 4, we see the early church experience persecution for following the way of Jesus. They do not respond by asking God for comfort and ease. Instead, they trust God and pray for boldness in their sharing of and participation with Jesus. The Holy Spirit answers, empowering them to courageously share the good news of the gospel and to generously share their very lives with one another.

Loving (Acts 2:42-47)

To love one another well, we must humbly live out of the security of God’s faithfulness. In Acts 2, we see a culture of loving generosity in the early church. As the early believers were more intentional about knowing God and one another, their love grew as well.

ACTS 15:7-11



INCLUSIVE

ACTS 18:24-28



INTENTIONAL

ACTS 4:29-35



PASSIONATE

ACTS 2:42-47



LOVING