

“The Church’s Quad’s!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. I guess the 1st church was a *Mega-Church!*
 - 1.1.1. Key is community/intimacy whatever the size.
 - 1.1.2. The church is about both **quantity & quality**. The 2 should never be thought of as separate. **Healthy churches usually grow!**
- 1.2. Well, let’s check out the 1st church plant!

2. THE CHURCH’S QUAD’S! (42-47)

- 2.1. The 1st church of Jerusalem:
 - 2.1.1. Wouldn’t it be great to peek at the “minutes”, the records of the 1st church, & hear what was important to them.
 - 2.1.2. That’s exactly what we get to do. This contains **the germ** of everything else in the NT concerning **the Christian Community**.
- 2.2. In vs.42 he gives us the **4 pillars** that will prop up the church for centuries to come.
- 2.3. Muscles that make up our **thigh** area are called... **Quadriceps** (Quad’s).
 - 2.3.1. It’s, “a large **four-part muscle** at the front of the thigh that acts to extend the leg.”
 - 2.3.2. **Rectus Femoris** – (rectus/straight). The straight muscle of the thigh.
 - 2.3.3. **Vastus lateralis** - is on the **lateral**(on the side/outside) side of the femur.
 - 2.3.4. **Vastus medialis** - is on the **medial**(middle/inside) side of the femur.
 - 2.3.5. **Vastus intermedius** - lies between those 2, on the front of the femur.
 - 2.3.6. Now, what happens when you haven’t been properly stretching or using your Quads, & you try to go out & **sprint?**
 - 2.3.7. For immediate treatment of pulls & strains use the **R.I.C.E. treatment plan** (*Rest, Ice, Compression and elevation*).
 - 2.3.7.1. If a **church** gets a spiritual pull or tear...use the **D.F.B.P. treatment plan** – Doctrine, Fellowship, Bread, Prayer.
 - 2.3.8. If The Church is to **arise & walk** it must always have its **Quads** in good working condition.
 - 2.3.8.1. Let’s take a good look at its Quad’s!
- 2.4. **DOCTRINE!**
- 2.5. Divine truth for both: **light for the mind & food for the heart!**
- 2.6. There is no church life possible apart from **prominence** give to the Word of God.
 - 2.6.1. It’s simply learning more about God!
- 2.7. **Safeguard:** for new converts against *danger of error!*

2.8. **FELLOWSHIP!**

- 2.9. Christianity is 1st **individual**, then **social/communal/community**.
- 2.9.1. Christ 1st attaches the soul to Himself, then connection between one & another in Him is inevitable.
- 2.9.2. It keeps us both growing **vertically** with God, & **horizontally** to each other at the same time.
- 2.9.3. Here's an area we at CCM identified where we need to absorb new families & individuals more rapidly as the 1st church did here.
- 2.9.3.1. Pastor Dan will be talking about "**Threshold**" classes very soon.
- 2.10. **Fellowship** = *koinonia*. "To partner, to share in common interest." "A deep association".
- 2.10.1. **A Partnership that involves Participation.**
- 2.10.2. It's a **relationship not an activity, not just being social, not superficial friendliness!**
- 2.10.2.1. You might know someone who is pleasant, friendly, & kind, & you can pass the time with them with no disputes or quarrels, but that's not fellowship.¹
- 2.10.3. It's a **Spiritual Organic** (developing gradually & naturally) **Community!**
- 2.10.4. (Read 44) They shared what was **common** & that was? **Christ!**
- 2.10.4.1. And now they also had the Holy Spirit in their life.
- 2.11. **It's a family issue!** – If you leave a human father or mother, for my sake, it's all right. You'll have fathers, mothers, a hundred-fold, in this present life; you will have a new family! **That is what is meant by fellowship.**
- 2.11.1. It's meeting with together with the family **to learn about who God is;**
It's meeting with together with the family **to have fellowship w/them;**
It's meeting with together with the family **to break bread with them;**
It's meeting with together with the family **to pray with them.**
- 2.11.2. **"We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren."** 1 Jn.3:14 [So people that don't participate in a church are really saying, "*I love the saints, I just can't stand being around them*"???)
- 2.11.3. 3000 were converted & joined the fellowship. Nothing could keep them away. Love for the brethren had become one of the **biggest & deepest** things in their life. Stronger even than earthly ties.
- 2.11.3.1. The proof of Christianity is that it **changes people**, it gives them a **new birth**, & they **belong to a new family!**
- 2.12. This **corporate** aspect is of *supreme importance* because an **unattached** Christian life is impossible.
- 2.12.1. The word "**saints**" used in the NT is **never** used in the singular! (62 x's)

¹ Martin-Lloyd Jones; Acts; pg.136.

- 2.12.2. Did you know that 1/3 of the Fruit of the spirit mentioned in Galatians can't be done with being *in association with* other believers?
- 2.12.2.1. 1st 3 are **God-ward** - love, peace, joy.
- 2.12.2.2. 2nd 3 are **man-ward** - longsuffering, kindness, goodness.
- 2.12.2.3. Last 3 are **inward** - faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.
- 2.13. **Safeguard:** for new converts against *danger of coldness!*
- 2.14. **BREAKING OF BREAD!**
- 2.15. The Lord's Supper. The church started this at once!
- 2.16. **Do this** (obedience) **in remembrance of me** (remember is redemptive work) **till He comes** (Hope for the future). **Take this & divide it among yourselves** (fellowship, unity, one body).
- 2.17. So some reasons for communion together:
- 2.17.1. **The Lord commanded it** (**Do this in remembrance of me**);
- 2.17.2. **To preserve the doctrine** (the Lord wanted to preserve the truth throughout the ages, **proclaiming His death till He comes!**);
- 2.17.3. **To preserve the unity of the church** (1 Cor.10:16,17 **The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.**)
- 2.17.3.1. See, the Corinthian church was **split**, "*I support Paul! I follow Peter! Apollos is da man!*"
- 2.17.3.2. When you come to the communion table you must **forget** about Paul, Apollos, Peter, Chuck, me, & anyone else who has ever preached...you must **ONLY see Christ!**
- 2.18. **Safeguard:** for new converts against *danger of superficiality!*
- 2.19. **Do communion:** Invite up Romulo, ushers will pass out communion during this next song.
- 2.19.1. **Do this in remembrance of me...**Remember what? Remember there is only one message of **Hope!** Only one word of **cheer!** It's, "**God so radically cherished/prized the world, that He gave His Son Jesus!**"
- 2.19.1.1. He **has given**, look back, it's already been done.
- 2.19.2. The **Bread** stands for the **broken body**; the **poured out wine** stands for the **poured-out blood!**
- 2.19.3. Partake if you're part of the family; join the family; partake when your heart is ready(on your own).
- 2.20. **PRAYERS!**
- 2.21. **Let's 1st say what its not:** It's not saying your prayers; it's not hurrying through a few memorized phrases; It's not whipping through the Lord's Prayer.
- 2.22. **So what is prayer?** – They were filled with the Holy Spirit & they prayed **extempore** (out of the moment), the prayed **willingly, freely, one after another.**

- 2.22.1. **One example** in 4:23-31. Peter & John were arrested, arraigned, & set free, on 1 condition; “they didn’t ever preach nor perform miracles in Jesus’ name!” **This was very serious.** **This was the authorities attempt to exterminate the Christian church.**
- 2.22.1.1. These leaders were trying to kill the baby soon after it was born. She was fighting for her very life!
- 2.23. **What is prayer? – #1 It’s to enter the Holiest place!**
- 2.23.1. Heb.10:19-23 “Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to **enter the Most Holy Place** by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us **draw near to God** with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”
- 2.23.2. It’s getting to go in, where for centuries only 1 man could go, only 1 time a year, to meet with God (High Priest).
- 2.23.3. **Prayer then is entering into His very presence!**
- 2.24. **#2 It’s having Thanksgiving!**
- 2.24.1. If we realize **who God is & what He’s done**, thanksgiving will have a very prominent part in our prayers.
- 2.25. **#3 It’s having Supplication!**
- 2.25.1. **Let your requests be made known to God.** Philip.4:6.
- 2.25.2. **Some requests:** need for **humility**, need for **help**, need for **strength**, need for **boldness**, etc.
- 2.25.3. **It’s not easy to keep walking straight ahead, & to keep pure & clean in a dirty world.**
- 2.26. This is why the early Christians prayed!
- 2.26.1. **So the test isn’t:** whether you talk cleverly.
- 2.26.2. **The test is:** “Do you hunger & thirst after righteousness? Do you want to know Him? Are you seeking His face because He is God, the **Inspirer & Hearer** of prayer?”
- 2.27. Prayer answers the plea, “If only I could find somebody who could, at one & the same time, **understand us & sympathize with us & yet be capable of standing in God’s holy presence & know Him** also!” (Martyn-Lloyd Jones)
- 2.28. **As we pray together** – the *presence of God* will be realized, His *power* will be received.
- 2.29. **Safeguard:** for new converts against *danger of independence!*
- 2.29.1. Without Him we can do nothing!

- 2.30. **Quadruped** – 4-footed animal. Ever see a 3-legged dog? They can get around...but they sure look funny doing it! Ever see a 3-legged church?
- 2.31. Church arise...and “*Flex your Quad’s!*”
- 2.32. **RESULTS!** (43-47)
- 2.33. (43) **Result coming out of vs.42?** – It was **so real & so powerful**.
- 2.33.1. **So Real** – Awe & reverence fell on all those around.
- 2.33.2. **So Powerful** – miracles were done by Apostles testifying to presence of God.
- 2.34. (44,45) **Common** (κοινα [koina]) - It was not actual communism(because this voluntary), but **they held all their property ready for use for the common good as it was needed** (4:32).
- 2.34.1. This situation appears nowhere else except in Jerusalem and was evidently due to **special conditions** there which did not survive permanently.² [Yet not an excuse, to not do the same]
- 2.34.2. **Ex:** What a blessing as I heard this week: A couple needed a **special bed &** before we could even respond, the need was met by a brother who heard. 😊
- 2.35. There was a **common Faith** (believed) **communal fellowship** (were together) **community of goods** (had all things in common).
- 2.36. (45) **Unselfish** – reciprocal/mutual love of new community.
- 2.36.1. **Giving** is one of **essential marks** of true Christian life, & proves reality of profession. (For where your **treasure** is, that’s where your **heart** is also!)
- 2.37. Their relationship w/each other was so strong they **couldn’t tolerate** anyone in the church w/material need, while others enjoyed relative prosperity.
- 2.37.1. A there were needs, they’d sell something off as they would if a family member had a need. (going beyond the tithe that was required at the time)
- 2.38. (46) **In the temple** – **Public** fellowship.
- 2.39. **House to house** – **Domestic** Fellowship(shared meals, then Lord’s supper).
- 2.39.1. This is the biblical calling & mandate to **eat all the time** when we get together!!! 😊
- 2.40. (47) Well, the 120 were out numbered, yet there was **harmony** in the church family.
- 2.40.1. They **worshipped** daily, **witnessed** daily, & “**the Lord added to the church daily.**”
- 2.40.2. **Q:** Is your experience with the Lord a **daily** one?
- 2.41. **Wow, what a church!**

²Robertson, A. (1997). *Word Pictures in the New Testament*. Vol.V c1932, Vol.VI c1933 by Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. (Ac 2:44). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems.