

I. Introduction: It is important for you to be part of a healthy church. Mt. 16:18 I Ti. 2:15

II. A healthy church evangelizes. Acts 2:41,47

A. Where does evangelism take place?

- 1. Evangelism takes place when believers take the gospel out into the world.**
- 2. What is wrong with making evangelism the focus of the weekly worship service?**
- 3. We need people who are willing to go out and seek the lost.**

B. It is God who adds to our number. v. 47 13:48 16:14 Isa. 55:11

C. Those who believe should be baptized immediately. 16:31-34

III. A healthy church is devoted to the Apostolic teaching. v. 42a

A. The Word of God should be faithfully proclaimed. II Ti. 3:16-4:5

- 1. Preaching the Word was central in the early church. 6:4 20:7,20 I Ti. 4:13
II Ti. 4:1-5 Lu. 4:17-19 Neh. 8:5-6**
- 2. Our source of authority is the infallible and sufficient Scripture. II Ti. 3:16-17**
- 3. Our job is to expound the Scriptures. II Ti. 4:1-2**
- 4. Those who preach must proclaim the Word fearlessly. II Ti. 4:3-5**
- 5. A healthy church is sound in doctrine. Ro. 6:17 16:17 Titus 1:9**

B. The congregation should listen eagerly and attentively.

IV. A healthy church is devoted to fellowship (*koinonia*). v. 42b

A. Our fellowship is a *sharing* in Christ. I Jo. 1:3,7 I Co. 1:9 10:16

B. We are lovingly involved in one-another's lives. v. 46 Ga. 2:9 6:2 II Co. 1:7 He. 10:33

**C. We *share* by meeting one-another's material needs. v. 44-45 4:32-35 6:1 I Jo. 3:17
Js. 1:27 Ga. 2:10 6:10 II Co. 8:4 9:13 He. 13:16 I Ti. 6:18 I Co. 16:2 Ro. 12:13 15:26**

**D. We share together by contributing to the ministry of the church. Phil. 1:5 4:15
I Co. 9:14 16:1-2 I Ti. 5:17-18 Gal. 6:6
Why don't we pass the plate and have special offerings?**

V. A healthy church is devoted to the breaking of bread: the Lord's Supper. v. 42c

**A. Communion was an integral part of the weekly worship of the early church. 20:7
I Co. 11:17-31**

B. Why do we practice weekly communion?

- 1. We follow the practice of the early church. I Co. 4:16-17 11:17-31**
- 2. Jesus commanded us to do this in remembrance of Him. Lu. 22:19 I Co. 11:24-25**
- 3. Why not have communion once a month or once a quarter?**

C. Why not have a full meal?

D. Who should partake of the Lord's Supper? (See insert). I Co. 11:27-30

VI. A healthy church is devoted to (corporate) prayer. v. 42d Romans 12:12 Col. 4:2

**A. The early church was a church at prayer. Acts 2:42 1:14 4:24-31 6:4 12:5,12 13:2-3
I Ti. 2:1-2 Ro. 12:12 Col. 4:2 Eph. 6:18 I Co. 11:4-5 I Th. 5:17**

B. What elements should be included in prayer? (ACTS)

- 1. Adoration. Mt. 6:9b Acts 4:25f**
- 2. Confession. Mt. 6:12 I John 1:8-10 Ps. 32 51**
- 3. Thanksgiving. Col. 4:2 Phil. 1:3-5 4:6 Ro. 1:8 I Th. 1:3f I Ti. 2:1**
- 4. Supplication (requests). Mt. 6:10-11,13 Acts 4:29-30**

C. For what should we pray?

- 1. For the advancement of God's kingdom. Mt. 6:10**
 - a. For missionaries. Acts 13:3 Eph. 6:19-20 Ro. 15:30-31**
 - b. For the work of evangelism and for the lost (Operation World). Rom. 10:1**
- 2. For the spiritual needs of the church body. Eph. 6:18 Js. 5:16**
 - a. Victory over temptation. Mt. 6:13**
 - b. For those being persecuted. Acts 12:5**
 - c. For spiritual growth and understanding. Eph. 3:16-19**
- 3. For our physical and material needs. Mt. 6:11 Js. 2:14-15**
- 4. For our nation and its leaders. I Tim. 2:1-4 Jer. 29:7**
- 5. For our church leaders. Eph. 6:19**

D. Who should participate in corporate prayer? I Ti. 2:8

- 1. When one prays aloud, everyone else should pray silently with him.**
- 2. The men are responsible to lead out in prayer. I Ti. 2:8**
- 3. The women also *may* pray.**
- 4. Does vocal female participation in prayer violate the command for women to be silent in the churches? I Co. 14:34 I Ti. 2:9-15**
 - a. The commandment for silence is not absolute.**
 - b. Women are not to exercise leadership over men in the church.**
 - c. It appears that women participated in corporate prayer in the early church. Acts 1:14 I Co. 11:5,13**
 - d. *Perhaps* head coverings were meant as a reminder of subordination for women who would speak out (prayer or prophecy) in church gatherings.**

E. How should you pray publicly?

- 1. Study the prayers in Scripture (Psalms, Epistles).**
- 2. Pray for matters of corporate concern.**
- 3. Start off with short prayers.**

F. Why pray?

- 1. God commands us to pray.**
- 2. We are needy people.**
- 3. Eternal things are at stake.**
- 4. God acts when we pray. Prayer is powerful. Js. 5:16 Mt. 21:22 Eph. 3:20**
- 5. Our prayers are pleasing to God. Rev. 5:8 8:3-4**

G. How much should we pray together? I Th. 5:17 Col. 4:2

VII. Conclusion: A balanced diet makes for a healthy church.

Discussion questions for family worship.

- 1. What are the characteristics of a healthy church, according to Acts 2:42?**
- 2. Are there other important attributes of a healthy church taught elsewhere in the Bible?**
- 3. What kind of teaching should be taking place in the church?**
- 4. What does *fellowship* mean? What are some biblical expressions of fellowship?**
- 5. Why does Grace Bible Church celebrate communion every week?**
- 6. What are some essential elements of prayer (ACTS)?**
- 7. What are some important subjects for corporate prayer?**
- 8. Who should participate in corporate prayer?**
- 9. What are some differences between public and private prayer?**