

## John 2:13-17

<sup>13</sup> When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. <sup>15</sup> So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup> To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!" <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

## Psalm 122:1

<sup>1</sup> I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

# Zeal for Your House

## 1. Consumed

▶ *Jesus was consumed with zeal for the house of God at Jerusalem.*

▲ *Jesus was passionate about presence at the house of God*

John 2:17 His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." (From Psalm 69:9, a psalm of David)

▲ *Jesus was passionate about the purposes of the house of God*

John 2:16 To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!"

## 2. Compelled

▶ *Jesus was compelled to be at the house of God interacting with believers even as a child.*

▲ *Jesus was interacting at the house of God*

John 2:46 After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers

▲ *Jesus was interconnected with the house of God*

John 2:48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." <sup>49</sup> "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

## 3. Customized

▶ *Jesus was in the regular custom of attending the Sabbath synagogue services with his fellow believers on a weekly basis.*

▲ *Jesus was present at the services*

Luke 4:16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read.

▲ *Jesus was participating powerfully in the services*

Mark 1:21 They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach.

Luke 13:10 On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, <sup>11</sup> and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years.

## 4. Custom continued

▶ *The Apostles attended the Sabbath synagogue services in foreign cities where they introduced the gospel to the hearers.*

▲ *Paul at the synagogue services*

*Salamis, Cyprus*— Acts 13:5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues.

*Antioch*— Acts 13:14 On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down. <sup>15</sup> After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue rulers sent word to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have a message of encouragement for the people, please speak."

*Iconium*— Acts 14:1 At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. They spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed.

*Thessalonica*— Acts 17:2 As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ," he said.

*Berea*— Acts 17:10 As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue.

*Athens*— Acts 17:17 He reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.

*Corinth*— Acts 18:4 Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

*Ephesus*— Acts 18:19 They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. — Acts 19:8 Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God.

▲ *Philippi and the Sabbath service*

Acts 16:13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.

## 5. Christianized

▶ *The early Christians attended the regular weekly meeting of believers on the first day of the week.*

▲ *They met on the Lord's day as a commemoration*

Mark 16:9 When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons.

Acts 20:7 On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept talking until midnight.

1 Corinthians 16:2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

Revelation 1:9 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup> On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit,

▲ *They met on the Lord's day as a congregation and community*

1 Corinthians 5:4 When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present,

## 6. Commanded

▶ *Christian believers are commanded not to give up meeting together as many are in the habit of doing.*

▲ *We must church with one another*

Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing,

▲ *We must challenge one another*

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. <sup>25</sup> Let us not give up meeting together,

▲ *We must cheer one another*

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. <sup>25</sup> Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

# ***The corporate church life of the early believers was prioritized and codified.***

## ***1. Individual believers were instructed to be fully functioning productive members of their local church body.***

Romans 12:4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. <sup>7</sup> If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

## ***2. Believers were charged to give themselves fully to the work of the Lord in the body.***

<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

## ***3. Believers were urged to be operating in the gifts of the Holy Spirit during the meetings in order to bring strengthening, encouragement, and comfort to one another.***

<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 12:7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 14:3 But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.

## ***4. Leadership gifts were given to the church for the purpose of directing the affairs of the church and preparing God's people for works of service.***

Ephesians 4:11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

<sup>1</sup> Timothy 3:1 Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup> Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup> not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup> He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. <sup>5</sup> (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) <sup>6</sup> He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup> He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

<sup>1</sup> Timothy 3:8 Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup> They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. <sup>10</sup> They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

<sup>1</sup> Peter 5:1 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: <sup>2</sup> Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; <sup>3</sup> not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

## ***5. Believers were to be ministering to the needy among their ranks, even to the point of establishing a list of widows who had no family support.***

<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. — <sup>9</sup> No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, <sup>10</sup> and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds. <sup>11</sup> As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. — <sup>16</sup> If any woman who is a believer has widows in her family, she should help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.

## ***6. The church services were to feature the public reading of Scripture, preaching and teaching.***

<sup>1</sup> Timothy 4:13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.

<sup>2</sup> Timothy 4:2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

## ***7. The ministry of singing and worshiping was to bring encouragement to the church.***

Ephesians 5:19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

## ***8. Believers were to celebrate the Lord's Supper in their church services.***

<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 11:23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup> In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup> For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## ***9. The local church was to work and give in order to support missionary and ministry work.***

<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 16:1 Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. <sup>2</sup> On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

Philippians 4:14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. <sup>15</sup> Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; <sup>16</sup> for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need.

<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 9:14 In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

## ***10. Believers were called to join together in prayer for one another.***

James 5:13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

## ***11. Believers were called to encourage one another and build one another up in their faith.***

<sup>1</sup> Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

## ***12. Believers in the local church were called to develop deep, faithful, loving relationships with one other.***

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Galatians 6:2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Philippians 4:2 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord.

Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

<sup>1</sup> Peter 1:22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

<sup>1</sup> Peter 2:17 Honor all people, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the king.

## ***13. Believers were instructed to be active in sharing their faith and to welcome unbelievers into the assembly.***

Philemon 6 I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

<sup>1</sup> Peter 3:15 Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 14:24 If an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, <sup>25</sup> and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"