

“Had All Things in Common”  
Pastor Wally Contreras  
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“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:42-47)

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Pastor Wally compared and contrasted the worldview when the church was first being formed and today stating that for the most part, the major difference was that of convenience – they walked to the bath houses and today we drive to the spas. He went on to say that the other major difference was that today’s society is much more secular, that back then, there was no room of any anti-supernatural thought...everyone believed in a higher being or beings who controlled every aspect of their lives whereas today, many deny the existence of such an entity. Why is that? Explain.

In discussing the term “devoted” in an article by Marshall Segal, staff writer for [desiringGod.org](http://desiringGod.org) said, “Perhaps it is easy for you to find churches meeting weekly or more, even within a couple miles of your home, but how many of our churches are marked by this kind of passionate devotion to God’s word and to one another? This was not just faithful attendance or reliable, spiritual routine. It was relentless joy and love – together.” In what way(s) have I settled for the “routine” over the “relentless joy and love – together” when it comes to “doing” church and why?

Pastor Wally pointed out that the Book of Acts sets out the way our church should be, one where we devote ourselves to: 1) being taught by the Word, 2) fellowshiping with one another, 3) breaking bread (participating in the Lord’s Supper), and 4) praying. Webster’s 1828 dictionary defines “devoted” to mean “solemnly set apart or dedicated; consecrated; addicted.” When it comes to being taught by the Word, C.H. Spurgeon said in his Feb 11, 1855 message, “Before I enter upon our text, let me very briefly tell you what I believe preaching Christ and him crucified is. My friends, I do not believe it is preaching Christ and him crucified, to give people a batch of philosophy every Sunday morning and evening, and neglect the truths of this Holy Book. I do not believe it is preaching Christ and him crucified, to leave out the main cardinal doctrines of the Word of God, and preach a religion which is all a mist and a haze, without any definite truths whatever. I take it that man does not preach Christ and him crucified, who can get through a sermon without mentioning Christ's name once; nor does that man preach Christ and him crucified, who leaves out the Holy Spirit's work, who never says a word about the Holy Ghost, so that indeed the hearers might say, "We do not so much as know whether there be a Holy Ghost." ...We preach Christ and him crucified in a different fashion, and to all gainsayers we reply, "We have not so learned Christ."



