



better
TOGETHER

ONE BODY IN CHRIST

Acts 2:41-47 ...those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. ⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... ⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common... ⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.



Patience

Understanding

Realistic Expectations

Seeing The Big Picture



1 - Patience Towards One Another

- Patience is tested when conflict or offense comes
- Jesus showed extraordinary patience with his followers who failed
- Patience means bearing with and forgiving others as the Lord has shown patience and forgiven us
- Patience requires God's help and grace
- Patience leads to redemption and growth

Scriptures:

- 1 Timothy 1:12-16
- Colossians 3:13



2 - Seek Understanding

- Judging by appearances leads to misunderstanding and conflict
- Jesus taught us to judge correctly and look deeper
- Accepting one another as Christ accepted us requires empathy and humility
- Seeking understanding means listening, asking, and giving the benefit of the doubt
- Extending grace means offering empathy, not judgment
- Following Jesus' example means making understanding a priority

Scriptures:

- John 7:24
- Romans 15:7



3 - Embrace Realistic Expectations

- Idealizing church life leads to disappointment and frustration
- We are all works in progress, not yet perfect
- We must hold each other accountable, but show grace/forgiveness
- By God's grace, weak and broken people can serve Him powerfully
- See each other as God does, with value, purpose, and potential
- Allow room for growth and maturity
- Realistic expectations builds a healthy and authentic church family

Scriptures:

- Philippians 3:12
- Galatians 6:1
- Hebrews 11



4 - Keep First Things First

- Don't lose sight of our greater purpose - justice, mercy, and faithfulness
- Focus on the core mission of the church - proclaiming the Gospel, making disciples, and living out our faith
- Evaluate and resolve everything in light of our mission in Christ
- Heed Christ's warning and avoid distractions
- Together, with God's help, let's keep first things first

Scriptures:

- Matthew 23 (*cf.* vv.23-28)



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WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Hear and Learn – *Rom. 10:17; John 6:45; 17:3*

Believe – *Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24*

Confess the Lord – *Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10*

Repent – *Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30*

Be Baptized – *Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:21*

Be Faithful Unto Death – *Revelation 2:10*

Go and Share the Good News!

Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16