

Get Engaged

Long Beach Alliance Church • September 5th, 2010 • Pastor Chris Lankford

And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. 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...

~Acts 2:44-46 (NASB)

1) The Great Commandments

- A) When Jesus Christ was questioned by an expert in “The Law” (the first five books of the Bible, known as ‘The Torah’) about the most important commandment, Jesus loosely quoted Deuteronomy 6:5, stating we must “Love God” (Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30, Luke 10:27).
- B) Always attached to loving God is the second greatest commandment to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:38; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27). All of the commands of God “hang” on these commands to “LOVE GOD AND LOVE OTHERS” (Matthew 22:40).

2) What Does “Love God” Look Like?

- A) In the first church, loving God was a response to salvation (Acts 2:41). This is where loving God begins! We love God because He first loved us (1st John 4:19).
- B) Loving God involves coming together as a community (the church) and participating together in baptisms, communion, prayer, and biblical teaching (Acts 2:41-42).
- C) The center of loving God is worship. Worship is actively loving God through our actions (Romans 12:1). Worship is an active response of love to God which engages the truth of God’s Word in our soul (John 4:23-24).

3) What Does “Love Others” Look Like?

- A) In the first church, loving others was marked by a unity amongst the people when they gathered together for the teaching of God’s Word (Acts 2:46).
- B) In other words, loving others requires actually being with other followers of Jesus Christ! It means eating meals together and living life together (2:46).
- C) Loving others occurs when we meet together and learn of one another’s needs (2:44-45). When we gather together in groups to share meals (breaking bread), and develop friendships (gladness and sincerity), we have the opportunity to “love others,” as people have need.
- D) When followers of Jesus are authentic in the way the “love God” and “love others,” they gain a reputation which is respected by newcomers, and rewarded by God (2:47).