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**THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH**

The New Testament churches were known for their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_1 to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2 of Christ’s teaching and they were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_3 or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_4 by the Apostles instructions (spoken-written). The early church had zeal for reaching the lost-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_5 to fulfilling the Great commission and the second coming of Christ (Acts 4:33). \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_6 was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_7 and \_\_\_\_8 of the expected culture from those without Christ, and so encouraged a greater effort to convert them.

Common characteristics of the churches:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_9: (Acts 4:32; Eph. 4:14-16)
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_10 – preaching – teaching - disciplining – testifying – witnessing
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_11 – faults were fixed! Few were allowed to fall away…
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_12 – church – Lord’s Supper – baptism (Rom 6:3, 4; I Cor. 11:23-26
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_13 – “in one accord” (Acts 1:3-4, 12-14)
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_14: (Acts 2:45, 4:34, 35; Eph. 4:28-32)

**Note:** They sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. They gave \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_15, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_16, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_17 and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_18. Houses, lands - Barnabus (Ananias & Sapphira). Individuals gave and churches gave, Philippi, Thessalonica.

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1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_19: (Acts 2:46-47; Eph. 5:18-21) Happy and Holy having favor with God and men, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_20, the O.T states, “the joy of the Lord is my strength” and so it was. Even in affliction, Paul said “count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations”, that was a mantra, a cry among believers, use it for God’s glory and our good.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_21: (Acts 2:41, 47, 5:14, 6:7, 13:44, 16:5, 18:8)

So richly blessed! It grew by adding souls, adding more souls-multitudes were added, then multiplied, then churches were added, then multiplied! They “turned the world upside down.” In the space of less than 38 months all Asia heard!

They had two indispensable gifts that enabled them by the Holy Spirit of God – according to the word of God to succeed.

1. **They had the favor of God:** They had God’s favor in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_22 and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_23 (Acts 5:14). True favor of the Lord is adding to His churches not just transfers. The numbers were astounding, the discipling was demanding, but the increase in discipled converts gave the increase in Disciples. They grew \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_24, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_25, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_26, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_27 and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_28.
2. **They had favor of man:** they had a testimony of \_\_\_\_\_29 of \_\_\_\_30 and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_31 with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_32. They were \_\_\_\_33, they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_34 everywhere. They went out and brought others in, they studied the scriptures and were ready to give answers to their faith. They had \_\_\_35, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_36, \_\_\_\_\_37, and they were blessed! It was evident in everything they did, even in persecution (men showed them favor).

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1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_38: (Acts 2:44, 4:32; Eph. 4:1-7) All that believed were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_39 and had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_40. That’s the key! It wasn’t a religious institution, a monastery or mausoleum, it was a living organism – a body of believers, a family of faithful fervent followers of Christ, all trying to be like Him!

Saved by the grace of God, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_41 to the ordinances and commands of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_42, they were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_43 who loved God, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_44 who obeyed God and they were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_45 for God. They were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_46 and found full fellowship as the family of God in the local church to which they were faithful.

This is the dynamic that God would use for 2000 years to draw out of this unbelieving world “a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” The local church, chosen, called, commissioned, and complete in Christ through His Holy Spirit.