

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

Matthew 16:18

Life in the Early Church

Life in the Early Church

Bad: Rejection

Life in the Early Church

Bad: Rejection

Bad: Persecution

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Discover: Shared Experience

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Discover: Common Bond

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Good: Community

Life in the Early Church

Bad: Rejection

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Good: Community

Good: Family

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Bad: Rejection

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Good: Community

Good: Family

Church

Life in the Early Church

Life in the Early Church

The Family of God

Life in the Early Church

The Family of God
Building Community

Life in the Early Church

The Family of God
Building Community
“Doing Life Together”

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The Family of God

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“Community is not just about being together,
it’s about doing life together.”

Life in the Early Church

The Family of God

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“Community is not just about being together,
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Yawn

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John 14:12

Life in the Early Church

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See Matthew 10

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In much the same way, the book of Acts was given to us as a model, a prototype, an example of what church is to look like today.

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What do you know about life in the early church?

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What were the early Christians like?

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What were the early Christians like?

Would you feel comfortable among them?

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How would you view their spiritual life and
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And how do you think they would view your
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And how do you think they would view your
spiritual life and commitment to Christ?

Finally, what can you learn from their lives?

Life in the Early Church

Life in the Early Church

One key phrase, “with (or in) one accord”.

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These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Acts 1:14

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So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people.

And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:46-47

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So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: “Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, “who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: ‘Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things?’”

Acts 4:25-26

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And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon’s Porch.

Acts 5:12

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Acts 5:12

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Acts 5:12

And there are many other accounts that also describe the character and attitude of the early church.

What Did the Early Church Look Like

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Acts 2:42-47

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They met in homes or rented facilities.

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Their key distinctive was worship and evangelism.

They were led by lay leaders.

They were guided by the Scriptures.

Everyone was a priest.

What Did the Early Church Look Like

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They were known as a holy, separate people.

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How did the church respond during persecution?

The Early Governmental Persecution

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The Letter to the Church at Smyrna

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“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation (how long) ten days. Be faithful until (when) death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

Revelation 2:10

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Domitian – 81-96 AD

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Domitian – 81-96 AD

Trajan – 98-117 AD

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Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius – 138-180 AD

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Maximus – 235-238 AD

The Early Governmental Persecution

Nero – 54-68 AD

Domitian – 81-96 AD

Trajan – 98-117 AD

Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius – 138-180 AD

Severus – 193-211 AD

Maximus – 235-238 AD

Decius – 249-251 AD

The Early Governmental Persecution

Valerian – 253-260 AD

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Aurelian – 274-287 AD

The Early Governmental Persecution

Valerian – 253-260 AD

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Diocletian – 292-304 AD

How the Early Church Described Itself

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A description of Christian living and what was expected in the church in the second century.

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The uncommon joy of all believers.

2021 or Bust!

2021 or Bust!

What can we learn from these accounts?

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How far have we fallen from the “great cloud of witnesses” encouraging us towards the finish line?

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How can we restore what we have lost?

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How far have we fallen from the “great cloud of witnesses” encouraging us towards the finish line?

How can we restore what we have lost?

Note, the commands of Christ have not changed.

2021 or Bust!

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“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go (not stay) therefore and make disciples of all the nations, (how) baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

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Let 2021 be a year of spiritual renewal and revival.