

A PICTURE OF THE YOUNG CHURCH:

1. We see:

1. Christianity, real Christianity, in action for the first time in human history.
2. We see the church in its first youth:
  1. Having neither money, influence, nor power in the ordinary sense.
  2. We see the young church setting forth joyfully and courageously to win the pagan world for God through Christ.
3. We see the young church in its first youth, valiant and unspoiled.
  1. Its membership is made up of a body of ordinary men and women joined in an unconquerable fellowship never before seen on this earth.

2. WE SEE:

1. The church as it was meant to be.
2. We see the church before it became fat and short of breath through prosperity.
3. We see it before it came to be muscle-bound by overorganization.

3. WHAT WE SEE TODAY:

1. Compared with the young church of that day, we see a confused and feeble performance of the church as it is today.
2. We see a proud and pious hypocrisy affecting to care for men's souls while not being in the least concerned for their physical or social welfare.
3. We see among those who lay claim to being Christians immeasurable ignorance of the word of God.
  1. They would be ashamed to have their ignorance exposed in matters of poetry music, or painting.
  2. Beyond some left over, half remembered scraps from childhood's memory they have not knowledge of the New Testament.

4. WHAT WE NEED TODAY:

1. Is a return to virgin Christianity as practiced by the young church of that day.

5. WHAT MADE THIS YOUNG CHURCH GREAT?

1. Some one quickly answers, "it had 3000 members".
  1. Was it the number of members that made it a great church? (I think not)

6. SOME CHARACTERISTICS THAT MADE THE YOUNG CHURCH GREAT:

1. IT WAS A LEARNING CHURCH: (Acts 2:42)

1. A real church is always a learning church.
2. A real Christian is always a learning Christian. "They continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine."
3. Mr. Collie Knox, a famous journalist was asked, "At what age did you finish your education?" He did not answer for he never finished his education. You can never stop learning.
4. The Word of God has met the need of the human soul for a way of redemption
5. The teaching of Christ has met the need for instruction in Christian practice.

2. IT WAS A PRAYING CHURCH:

1. The members of the young church did not make "acts of faith." They believed.
2. They did not say prayers: THEY PRAYED PRAYERS.
3. When we pray we put ourselves in touch with the power of God.

3. IT WAS A SHARING CHURCH:

1. Verses 44 and 45 tell us a lovely thing about that young church.
2. The HAVES were willing to share with the HAVE NOTS.
3. If we are really possessed of the spirit of Christ we cannot be happy if we see another in need and do not help that one.

4. IT WAS A LIKEABLE CHURCH:

1. Verse 47 tells us that the member of that young church "had favor with all the people"

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2. THE YOUNG CHURCH IN ACTION (PAGE TWO)