

Kenmore Baptist Church Message Outline

September 4 2016 (John Robertson)

For the Life of the World - The Church

Today we talk about the *'The Church'*, this diverse and complimentary callings, harmonising in the house management of God's creation. The Bible says we are 'A Royal Priesthood' and our calling is to be salt and light to the world around us.

In Jeremiah 29:7 we have studied that it tells us that as exiles we are to seek the welfare of the city, to seek the peace and prosperity of the city.

"The church is the body of Christ given as a gift for the life of the world."

- Dr Stephen Grabill

"Australians like the product, they just don't like the retail outlet."

- Todd Sampson, The Gruen Transfer

"People who were nothing like Jesus, liked Jesus." Andy Stanley

If we are His body – they need to see Jesus in us! How does that happen? How do we look like the body of Christ when we get together? What does it mean to be the church together?

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the

temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

KBC Mission Statement

*To turn spiritual seekers into fully committed followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, who in **community**, actively seek to: **celebrate** the life of God, **cultivate** personal growth in Christ, **care** about one another in Christ, and **communicate** Christ to the world.*

Cultivating Growth - Make disciples through LOVING environments and QUALITY resources

Acts 2:42 - They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching.

"Cultivating personal growth in Christ" can be achieved through:

- The study of God's Word
- Through personal application of biblical principles through an ongoing personal relationship with God by the power of the Holy Spirit
- Through maturing Christians reflecting and modelling the character of Jesus

Community - Building FAMILY through meaningful connection points

Acts 2:42 - They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

Here we get a taste of what this community was like. They fellowshiped together, they ate together, they prayed together and they were a presence based community. Signs and wonders were a normal part of the church. They were supernaturally natural.

The connection points they shared within their community were meaningful.

Care About One Another - Heal and nurture people with HONOUR

Acts 2:44-45 - All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

God empowers us to care. He does this through:

- Placing His Spirit within to enable us to love - Romans 5:5; 8:9
- Love being the central theme of the fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22-23
- Continually renewing our minds - Romans 12:1-2
- Giving us spiritual gifts for serving others - Romans 12; Ephesians 4; 1 Corinthians 12-14
- Showing us how to care from the example of Jesus

Celebrating the Life of God – Gather together in the Father’s PRESENCE in AUTHENTIC worship

Acts 2:46 - Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God

When we “celebrate the life of God”, we are to authentically, enthusiastically and faithfully:

- Remember all that God has been to us
- Experience all that God is to us now
- Seek and anticipate all that God will be to us in the future

This is to be done publicly as a Body of God's people in worship and praise; privately as an individual through prayer and devotion; and practically through a continual awareness and response to God's presence and power. When we come together as a church to celebrate the life of Jesus we do so with the desire to encounter His manifest presence amongst us.

Communicating Christ to the World - Release EMPOWERED people to advance Christ's kingdom.

Acts 2:47 - Enjoying the favour of all people the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

This is to be achieved through:

- Loving and serving relationships with those on our Frontline
- The ongoing reproduction of our life in Christ
- Penetration of our society and the world by discipleship that meets needs

We are clearly required in the power of the Holy Spirit, to declare and demonstrate the Gospel of Jesus. We have a mandate (an authoritative command) to act on Christ's behalf to fulfil His purposes. (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-47; John 20:21; Acts 1:8).

There's a rhythm to be found in coming and going as the church; coming together for support, healing, training and encouragement, then to go out to seek the welfare of the city, to bring Jesus into our communities for the life of the world.