## THE FIRST FOREVER FAMILY Acts 2:38-47

### Acts 2:38-47 NLT

<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles—all who have been called by the Lord our God." <sup>40</sup> Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!"
<sup>41</sup> Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church

that day—about 3,000 in all.

#### Acts 2:38-47 NLT

#### **The Believers Form a Community**

<sup>42</sup> All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. <sup>44</sup> And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. <sup>45</sup> They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. <sup>46</sup> They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—<sup>47</sup> all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

1) From (spiritual) Rags to Riches ... Praise the Lord!

- 2) Commitment to God sends us into each other's arms.
- 3) What of their behavior was Description vs. Prescription?
- 4) "Together" --one of the most important words in the dictionary.



#### HOLDING ON TO GOD ...AND EACH OTHER --Acts 2:42

Bound together by God's Word
 Devoted to each other
 Built on the Work of Jesus

 ...the Lord's Supper
 Connected to God by Prayer

COMMUNITY...EVERYTHING IN COMMON --Acts 2:44

Radical sharing
Liquidation of possessions
Needs were met
They gave freely to one another

#### A CONSUMING FIRE FOR GOD --Acts 2:46

✤ Met daily

- Shared meals and the Lord's Supper in each other's homes
   Hearts were singing
- They behaved themselves

#### AND GOD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER EVERY DAY --Acts 2:47

 More and more folk were being Saved
 More and more people took the Plunge for Jesus
 Oh Happy Day

#### DESCRIPTION OR PRESCRIPTION ...AN IMPORTANT MATTER

- Because we use the Bible as our road map
- Because we truly desire to follow the lead of the Apostles
- So what is a simple description of how our spiritual forefathers behaved?

And what is recorded as a mandate for us ...in the here and now?

#### **REMEMBERING OUR COVENANT ROOTS**

Love God with all of your heart, mind and strength.
 Love our Neighbor as we love ourselves.
 "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to the family of God." --Galatians 6:10

# onte

I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

I trust him as my Lord and Savior. 1) From (spiritual) Rags to Riches ... Praise the Lord!

- 2) Commitment to God sends us into each other's arms.
- 3) What of their behavior was Description vs. Prescription?
- 4) "Together" --one of the most important words in the dictionary.





Now GO and "...let us do good to all people, especially to the family of God." --Galatians 6:10