

Lessons from the Early Church

Put the Kingdom First

- **Matthew 6:33 is the command.**
 - How often do we try to reprioritize? Matt. 6:24
 - Acts 14:22
- **How different does your life look to that of your neighbor's?**
 - Same entertainment? Same dress? Same problems?
 - Is the only difference that you assemble?
- **Philippians 1:21; 3:20**

Visible Love

- **Acts 2:44-47**
 - It is likely that these Christians hardly knew one another.
- **Acts 4:34-37**
- **Gentiles provide assistance to Jews in Acts 11:27-30.**
- **Not hard to see why such a charitable movement would be so appealing.**
- **John 13:34, 35**

Visible Love

- **Clement, describing Christians, “He impoverishes himself out of love, so that he is certain he may never overlook a brother in need, especially if he knows he can bear poverty better than his brother. He likewise considers the pain of another as his own pain. And if he suffers any hardship because of having given out of his own poverty, he does not complain.”**

Not Ashamed of the Gospel

- **“Negative statements”:**

- Acts 5:27, 28

- Acts 17:6

- Acts 19:25, 26

- **Positive statements:**

- Acts 5:42; 20:20

- Acts 8:3-5

Not Ashamed of the Gospel

- **Luke provides progress reports.**
 - **Acts 4:4**
 - **Acts 6:1, 7**
 - **Acts 12:24**
 - **Acts 19:20**
 - **Acts 28:31**

- **Will we follow the pattern of the first-century church?**
 - **Put the kingdom first?**
 - **Demonstrate visible love?**
 - **Not be ashamed of the Gospel?**
- **Good things happen when God's plan is followed.**
- **1 Corinthians 3:5-7**