

I. Text from the Apostles' Creed: "I believe in...the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints."

II. 3 Things to Note about the Church.

1. It was Promised by Christ (Matt. 16:13-18)
2. It was Purchased by Christ (Acts 20:28)
3. It's brought about by the Proclamation of Christ (Acts 2:14-41)

III. Acts 2:42-47. 6 Identifying Marks of a Healthy Church

1. *It's a Word-Centered Community (v. 42a)*
2. *It's a Loving Community (v. 42b)*
3. *It's a Worshipping Community (v. 42c)*
4. *It's a Praying Community (v. 42d)*
5. *It's a Generous Community (v. 45)*
6. *It's a Growing Community (v.47)*

IV. 3 Pieces of advice on being the church.

1. *Be an Alive and growing member, not an Apathetic one.*

- i. Growing in our devotion to the Lord
- ii. Growing with other believers.

1. Proverbs 18:24 says, "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

2. *Be a Contributing member, not a Consumeristic one.*

- i. Don't have a mindset the church is simply a religious provider.
- ii. Adopt the mindset that the church is the people I belong to and contribute to.

3. *Be Rooted in your community, not Removed from it.*