

I. They Did Assemble

- A. Hebrews 10:24-25 It prompted spiritual stimulation to love and good works.
They were told not to forsake this assembly.
- B. Early Christian assemblies were similar to Jewish synagogue assemblies.
James 2:1-4 (Greek word for synagogue used for assembly of the church)
In the Jewish Synagogues:
Acts 13:14-16 scripture was read; exhortations were given
Acts 13:42-44 they met every week at the synagogue
Luke 4:16-21 stood to read / sat to teach; Jesus habitually attended
- C. Early Christians met in homes
Acts 12:5, 12-18 The church met in the home of Mary, mother of John Mark.
Romans 16:3-5, 10, 11, 15 The church met in several homes in Rome.

II. What Did They Do?

- A. Acts 2:42-47 Taught Had Fellowship Prayed Broke Bread Signs Wonders
4:23-35 All in Common Shared Baptized Praised God Lifted Voices
6:1-6 Spoke God's Word Distributed Appointed Representatives
11:27-30 Prophesied Contributed
14:26-28 Made Reports
15:30-33 Read Correspondence Gave Exhortations
- B. Some of these practices we can emulate, though we see little pattern in these examples. We can no longer practice the miraculous works (see Bible Talk # 205).

III. Specific Instructions and Explanations

- A. ASSEMBLIES IN GENERAL I Corinthians 14:4-5, 12, 18-19, 26-40
Paul stressed that the assemblies must be orderly, their purpose was to edify and instruct the participants, and that women were to be silent.
- B. THE LORD'S SUPPER (refer to WO-2)
The Lord's Supper was inaugurated by the Lord, taught by the apostles, and practiced by the church as a memorial ceremony.
- C. GENERATING REVENUE I Corinthians 16:1-2
Funds needed by the church were generated through free-will contributions which were collected on the first day of every week.
- D. TEACHING Acts 20:18-21, 25-27
Proclaiming "the whole counsel of God" was part of the church's public assembly
- E. PRAYING I Timothy 2:1-2, 8, 11-15
Since women took a quiet, subordinate role, men prayed in mixed groups.
- F. SINGING I Corinthians 14:15; Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19
Acappella singing was practiced in the Jewish synagogue, as well as in the early assemblies of the church. Emphasis was placed on the words of the song ... they were to understand what they sang ... they were to teach and admonish one another with song.