

6. 6-5-22 Pentecost Sunday

Sermon- One Accord, One Place

Scripture- Acts 2:1-21, CTW- Ps. 104:24-34

Hymns- 297, 114 (2 times), 306

Theme: Contemplating Pentecost, as a pastor I find this verse of scripture amazing. Why? Because this verse tells us two amazing things: the New Testament church was in ONE ACCORD in ONE PLACE. Accomplishing either one of these would be marvelous, but to accomplish both is astounding.

I. Occasionally, many churches have a "NO EXCUSE SUNDAY," trying to get everyone to attend. Before this Sunday arrives, they send out newsletters from the church, stating:

- Cots will be placed in the foyer for those who say, "Sunday is my only day to sleep in."
- There will be a special section with lounge chairs for those who feel that our pews are too hard.
- Eye drops will be available for those with tired eyes from watching TV late Saturday night.
- We will have steel helmets for those who say, "The roof would cave in if I ever came to church."
- Blankets will be furnished for those who think the church is too cold, and fans for those who say it is too hot.
- Scorecards will be available for those who wish to list the hypocrites present.
- Relatives and friends will be in attendance for those who can't go to church and cook dinner, too.

- We will distribute "Stamp Out Stewardship" buttons for those that feel the church is always asking for money.
- One section will be devoted to trees and grass for those who like to seek God in nature.
- Doctors and nurses will be in attendance for those who plan to be sick on Sunday.
- The sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who never have seen the church without them.
- We will provide hearing aids for those who can't hear the preacher and cotton wool for those who think he's too loud!

On this special day, they promise to make every effort to eliminate all the excuses. But when the day arrives they have members who will not attend. Every church in the country would be bursting at the seams if they could just get their people to attend all the services.

A. Every pastor will tell you that it is a difficult thing to get ALL IN ONE ACCORD, IN ONE PLACE.

But the Bible says the early church was able to achieve BOTH OF THESE. Wow! I am impressed!

This was an amazing church. Never has there been a church that can surpass **this** church in greatness when it comes to a church being controlled by the Holy Spirit of God. Some may disagree with that statement, but I challenge them to show me otherwise.

Some may say, "What about some of these Mega churches that we see on television, where thousands and thousands attend? Isn't this a sign that THESE CHURCHES ARE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?"

Not necessarily! I do not want to be a "party-pooper", but many times the fact that these large mega churches are filled with thousands has nothing to do with being filled with the Holy Spirit. It has to do with:

A good location, beautiful buildings, programs, entertainment, and large budgets where they spend millions to promote their churches through radio and television.

When you have these kinds of things, you ought to be able to draw a crowd. The early church had none of these things, yet they reached a level of greatness no church has ever been able to achieve.

B. No church since then has been able to equal it or even come close to the level of greatness they reached.

For example, this church-

- Had some of the greatest anointed preachers that any church has ever had. (**Acts 2:14 & 4:8**)
- Had some of the greatest Spirit-filled deacons that any church has ever had. **Acts 6:5**, "...and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus., and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas. and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch."
- Had some of the greatest givers that any church has ever had. **Acts 4:34**, "...for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them and brought the prices of the things that were sold."
- Had some of the greatest prayer-warriors that any church has ever had. **Acts 4:31**, "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together..."
- Had some of the greatest worshippers that any church has ever had. **Acts 4:24**, "And when they heard that, they lifted up their

voice to God **with one accord** and said. Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is."

- Had the greatest numerical growth that any church has ever had. **Acts 2:41**, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

So what's my point? I am saying that no church that has ever existed has surpassed this first church of Jerusalem in greatness or even come close.

They were not only all **IN ONE PLACE**, the Bible tells us they were in **ONE ACCORD**.

Because of their greatness, we can not help but ask some questions, such as:

II. WHAT MADE THEM GREAT?

We know that -

- It was not their beautiful buildings
- It was not their talents because most of them were just ordinary people.
- It was not their television programs that promoted their church.
- It was not their radio programs that promoted their church.
- It was not their printing presses that promoted their church.
- It was not the Internet that promoted their church.

They had none of these things, yet they go down in the history books as the greatest church that ever existed.

A. The scriptures make it clear. There are two words that stand out in the book of Acts. Those words are, "One Accord". The Bible says in:

- **Acts 2:1**, "... they were all with ONE ACCORD in one place."
- **Acts 1:14**, "...continued with ONE ACCORD in prayer."
- **Acts 2:46**, "...with ONE ACCORD in the temple..."
- **Acts 4:24**, "...lifted up their voice to God with ONE ACCORD
- **Acts 5:12**, "...they were all with ONE ACCORD..."
- **Acts 8:6**, "And the people with ONE ACCORD..."
- **Acts 15:25**, "...being assembled with ONE ACCORD..."

We would not be reading the great things that were recorded in the Book of Acts if that first church had not been in ONE ACCORD!

One of the things that keeps many churches from doing great things for the Lord Jesus is that the devil has the church going in so many different directions that they are not being effective in their ministries.

We need to remember that the first church was not truly "Spirit Filled" until they were all in **ONE PLACE** and all in **ONE ACCORD**.

II. SO, HOW WERE THEY GREAT?

Have you ever watched armies on television marching in step with each other? Sometimes thousands of soldiers are marching in the same direction and everyone is in perfect step with the others. It is a wonderful sight to behold!

I remember the old Gomer Pyle television program, where all the soldiers are marching in perfect step but Gomer was all over the

place. I am afraid there are a lot of Gomer Pyle Christians today. They do not know the first thing about walking in ONE ACCORD!

But look how this New Testament church was in ONE ACCORD.

A. THEY WERE IN ONE ACCORD CONCERNING THEIR PURPOSE.

We can see that so clearly because they were determined to speak and teach in the name of Jesus, no matter what. They understood that the purpose of the church was to preach, teach and spread this gospel of Christ.

Look at **Acts 4:18**, "And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus."

Today the average church member may not have the slightest idea what the purpose of their church is.

The purpose for many churches existing today ranges from having social activities, to going through various rituals each week.

But the early church was with "**one accord**" in its purpose for existing.

One of the last things the Lord told His church was, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (**Mark 16:15**)

Notice it says, "...to every creature." In other words, the church today should exist for the purpose of presenting this gospel to every man, woman, boy and girl. If that is not our purpose for establishing this church, we need to close the doors because we cannot be a BIBLE DRIVEN CHURCH OTHERWISE!

- Every song, Every sermon, Every Sunday school lesson, Every activity should all be about reaching the lost. **Hey, We are evangelical!**

THAT IS THE PURPOSE OF OUR EXISTENCE! We are most effective when we stay with the purpose God put us here for.

Illus: Remember when fast food restaurants were really fast food? I remember when McDonald's first opened up. They existed for the purpose of providing fast food to people. If you wanted a hamburger, you could walk into one of the McDonald's restaurants, and in a minute you could walk out eating a hamburger.

But then they began to try and expand their business by selling other things that their competitors were selling. Today you can walk into a McDonald's and wait and wait!

WHAT HAPPENED? They got away from their original purpose of providing fast food! They were most efficient when they stayed with their purpose for existing.

When they began to look at their competition and diversified to be competitive, they started selling roast beef, MC RIBS, chicken, and salads. Today, you can walk into any McDonald's, and you will see they are no longer as effective as they once were.

That Has happened in churches. Any time we get away from our original purpose for existing, we become less effective.

Today, all over this nation we have churches that have moved away from their original purpose of reaching the lost.

MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT: The early church KNEW God's purpose for their existence. They were all in **ONE ACCORD, IN ONE PLACE...and then** they went everywhere preaching this gospel.

B. THEY WERE IN ONE ACCORD IN HARMONY

This was a church that knew how to WALK TOGETHER and STICK TOGETHER.

In many modern churches, when times get rough you will be surprised at the folks who claim to love the Lord and walk away from a church they claim they love. They just yearn for something else!

When we as a church get serious about reaching the lost, you can mark it down, Satan is going to come from all directions trying to stop us.

And a church that does **NOT WALK TOGETHER, and STAND TOGETHER** will not be able to survive.

Satan could not close the early church down because they (all of them) were in ONE ACCORD in PURPOSE and HARMONY.

We do not all have the same political persuasion, drive the same kind of car, or love the same kind of ice cream. But when it comes to serving God, we all need to be in the SAME BOAT! We have to be in ONE ACCORD IN HARMONY.

When we are in ONE ACCORD we can win the lost to Christ.

A church that exists for the purpose of reaching the lost, WILL REACH THE LOST! After all, I must remind you that is in our purpose statement...

To attract and lead the unsaved to Jesus, to encourage Christians to be consecrated to God's purpose in their lives, to grow spiritually, and to be equipped to go forth into the surrounding neighborhoods in order to lead others to a saving knowledge in Christ.

God's church is out of tune today. We need to stop everything and let **HIS** Word "strike the right note" so we can get back in tune, so that once again we will be in ONE ACCORD!

Amen? Let Us Pray...