

EXPLAINING WHO WE ARE

1. Text: Acts 2:37-43
2. What is the core principle to explain where we stand? Actually rather easy to explain.
3. Look at first few words of Acts 2:42 and follow the point in four steps: "They continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine."

I. **What Is The Doctrine?**

1. Doctrine=teaching.
2. Why Apostles' and not Christ's? Because their doctrine was His doctrine. They were especially "sent from" Christ to carry on His work and message.
3. The Holy Spirit connects them. John 14:26 "past truth." John 16:13 "future truth." "All truth" in 16:13.
4. Paul the Apostle: I Corinthians 2:13 He used words the Holy Spirit taught. I Thessalonians 2:13 You received our word as it was the Word of God. I Corinthians 14:37 Things I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.
5. John 10:10 I came that they might have life. II Peter 1:3 Peter the Apostle: We've been given all things that pertain to life and godliness.

II. **What Is The Duty?**

1. They "continued steadfastly" in the Apostles' doctrine. One word in Greek and literally is "to be strong towards" and means to adhere (attach), persist in, be faithful to, devoted to, persevere in; to remain steadfast, remain strong in.
2. Same word used of prayer: Romans 12:12 continuing steadfastly in prayer. Also Colossians 4:2.
3. Used of Christians assembling in Acts 2:46.
4. Moses is an example: Hebrews 11:27 "He endured as seeing Him who is invisible."
5. II Timothy 1:13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me.
6. Romans 6:17 You obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine.
7. We must continue steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine.

III. **What Is The Danger?**

1. Not continuing in it. "Discontinuing."
2. Jude 3 "The faith which has once and for all been given." I Timothy 4:1 Some shall depart from the faith.
3. Wrong doctrine leads to wrong decisions, devotion, duties.
4. Even in the first century it is clear that believers did not continue in apostolic teaching. Acts 15:1-22 has a challenge to it. Acts 20:29-31 has Paul warning of this danger.
5. Romans 16:17 Note those who cause division and offences contrary to the (Apostles') doctrine which you learned and avoid them.
6. Either we continue or remain in it or we reject it.

IV. **What Is our Direction Today?**

1. We use the word restoration (to bring back into use or to the original condition). The principle and plea. Apostasy.
2. It is just as easy to say "to return to the Apostolic teachings."
3. Remain, reject, return
4. Key question of Christianity: Is this Apostles' doctrine? If not, then change, repent.
5. Examples: local autonomy, baptism, terminology, music.

Conclusion:

A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
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