

The Apostles' **CREED**

"I believe in the holy catholic church"

Getting Started

What possessions do you have that you enjoy sharing with others?

Which of your belongings would you not want to share with anyone else? Why?

How would you describe your life-style: self-centered, family-centered, or others-centered?

Going Deeper

Read [Acts 2:42-47](#) that describes the early church.

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Discuss:

From the passage in Acts 2, what indication is there that the first church was marked by each of the following:

- Loving acceptance?
- Vulnerability (openly sharing their lives)?
- Mutual service?
- Celebration?
- Evangelistic impact?

Are there elements in these verses that we can implement into our own lives?

What steps can we take to be more like the early church?

Are there some things that are unreasonable that we wouldn't be able to do anymore?

Paul mentioned that the term "catholic church" refers to the "Global church." It's easy to forget about this global church and just focus on our own Canyon Springs.

Internationally: Why is it important to reflect on what other christian brothers and sisters are facing?

What steps can we take to help and support those around the world?

Locally: What obstacles prevent us from getting involved in the needs of the community around us? Take each obstacle on the list and discuss ways to overcome them.

Personally: Share of a time in your life when someone helped you out in a moment of crisis. What was the situation? What did that feel like to be supported in that way?

In what practical ways can we express love and acceptance for others, especially newcomers, in our church family?

What can be done in your small group to cultivate greater love and concern for one another?

What practical step can you take this week to connect with another believer at a genuine, heart-to-heart level?

[Probers 18:24](#) talks about a close friend.

Man has, in Aldous Huxley's phrase, "an infinite appetite for distraction."

Thus, our pastimes have evolved into "**weapons of mass distraction.**"

Are there steps that can be taken to help us create history and trust with others around us. What steps can be taken to help?

