

## Magnetism to be Like \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2:41-47

Week after week it would be knock-down-drag-out . Even as fourth and fifth graders we were passionate about football. This was long before pee wee football and organized sports. Our small country school could barely field a basketball team let alone football or baseball.

Every Monday, the first thing we would do at the first recess was to chose up teams. The first fight centered on which team would be Oklahoma and which would be the opponent of the next Saturday's game. The second fight would be among those on the Oklahoma team deciding which player each would be. I would go to the wall to be Tommy McDonald, others wanted to be Billy Vessels or Clendon Thomas. Now bloody and bruised from deciding who would be whom, we were ready to play the game, quarter by quarter, recess by recess, until Friday; and then we'd go at it again the following Monday.

Those games, they were for real—NO tag, or flag football for us. We went all out. We didn't have helmets. We didn't have grass to play on, only pea sized gravel. By the end of football season we each were one walking scab which we proudly wore as a trophy.

Those were the days of Bud Wilkinson, his National Championships, and the start of Oklahoma football's record-setting 47 game winning streak, the longest in NCAA history. The Sooner magic magnetically set its grip on the aspiring athletes and compelled us to be just like those who played the game.

What is it that is so attractive about your life or my life that would cause someone to want to be like us, let alone *fight* to be like us? Where do *we* look to find those we would be compelled to emulate? If you're a young couple thinking about marriage, whose marriage serves as your model or standard? Where is the ideal family deserving of the standard to imitate? It's a pretty well-accepted consensus that Norman Rockwell painted only an image of a non-existent ideal of the family, and it's proven that Ozzie, Harriet, David and Ricky Nelson were just actors playing out an imaginary script of wishful but unattainable fantasy.

God has created within each of us the need and desire to fight for His perfect model to emulate. But where do we look for that standard in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? We look to the first century at the Body of Christ, the church, as Christ intended. When we go back to its core we discover a magnetism and mystique defined as a mystery so compelling that people would fight to be like and a part of such a living personality.

It's true that we have few "pictures" or "actors" of the church today worthy of imitation, but when we go to the *original* we will discover why God gave us both the need and desire to become a part of His perfect model—the church.

### LIFE RESPONSE:

1. This week **MEMORIZE** and **MEDITATE** on 1 Timothy 4:16, "*Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching: preserve in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.*"  
What was so magnetic and compelling about the first church? What drew people toward those members? It was their devotion to the Word, care for one another, unity, and sacrifice.
  - (a) Think about the place Scripture has in your own life.
    - What priority does it have?
    - How does it shape your daily attitudes and responses?
    - If someone were to define who you are and what you do, would your heart for God's Word be included in that definition?
  - (b) Meditate on the following passages to capture a greater respect for the need of Scripture in your life.  
2 Tim. 3:16-17    2 Peter 1:2-4    Hosea 4:6    Heb. 4:12-13    Ps. 119    2 Tim. 4:1-4
2. One of the by-products, cause/effect impacts, of our common bond from trusting Christ is coined in Acts 2:44 "*and all those who had believed were together, and had all things in common.*"
  - What does this communicate about how God takes our diversity and mysteriously shapes us into unity?
  - How should this common bond distinguish us as a church family? Your personal family? Your Mini Church?
3. Study the 21 "one another" passages. What would happen in our church, families, our own personal lives, if those 21 qualities were consistently practiced? Where does it break down? What are the consequences?

4. Seriously pray that our church, families, and personal lives would become so magnetic in Christ that others would fight to be like us.

*Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the muscle of omnipotence.”*

### **Who do you want to be like?**

. . . Who would you want to be like you?

. . . Why would anyone want to be like FBC?

### **What makes a church contagious, magnetic?**

#### **Transformed Lives**

**Acts 2:41**

- Received the Word. . . to trust the evidence regarding Christ
- Received His forgiveness
- Baptized = Grafted/fused into Christ
- Transformation = 2 Cor. 5:17

#### **Devoted to teaching**

**Acts 2:42**

- Apostles Teaching - Doctrine
- Continually: To adhere: with strength
- Stresses the incredible high view of Scripture  
1 Tim. 4:6, 11, 13, 15, 16  
2 Tim. 3:16-17

#### **Intimacy with Jesus**

**Acts 2:42**

- **Devoted to Fellowship**
  - ❖ To breaking of bread - *Communion*  
Constant reminder of Jesus sacrifice  
Luke 22:19 Do this in remembrance of Me  
John 14:26 Holy Spirit will bring to remembrance
  - ❖ To prayer - *Communication*  
Luke 18:1 “ought to pray at all times”  
Luke 11:1-4 Taught model prayer  
John 14:12-14 Preparation for local/world impact

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**Acts 2:43**

- Signs and wonders . . . through the apostles
- Shocking --- A Holy fear --- Awe
- An exceptional phenomenon at this time to confirm the apostles authority

#### **Irresistible Relationships**

**Acts 2:44**

- “All those who had believed were together” . . . the identifying mark of intimacy with each other
- Family based upon John 1:12
- Heterogeneous Broke all barriers (2 Cor. 5:14,16)
- Unconditional/sacrificial love

## 21 One Another's

Confess sins to one another (James 5:16)	Edify one another (Rom. 14:19)
Pray for one another (James 5:16)	Accept one another (Rom. 15:7)
Serve one another (Gal. 5:13)	Instruct one another (Rom. 15:14)
Carry one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2)	Greet one another (Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:20)
Encourage one another (1 Thess. 4:18; 5:11, 14)	Bear with one another (Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:13)
Wait for one another (1 Cor. 11:33)	Be kind to one another (Eph. 4:32)
Care for one another (1 Cor. 12:25)	Submit to one another (Eph. 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5)
Function as members of one another (Rom. 12:5)	Esteem one another (Phil. 2:3)
Devoted to one another (Rom. 12:10)	Offer hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
Honor one another (Rom. 12:10)	Fellowship with one another (1 John 1:7)
Be of the same mind toward one another (Rom. 12:16; 15:5)	

### Compelling Generosity

#### Acts 2:45

- Not a communal selling of all property but need based, sacrificial giving
- "nothing conquers our grip of money and possessions more than a true faith in Christ"
- Phil 4:19 ". . .my God shall supply. . .according to His riches"
- 2 Cor. 8:1-4 . . . beyond their ability, . . .begged for participation

### Contagious Unity

#### Acts 2:46

- "day by day continuing with one mind"  
Began at the Temple - *Church gathered*  
Spread throughout community - *Church scattered*
  - ❖ Ate from house to house
  - ❖ A positive atmosphere of hope, "gladness, sincerity of heart, praising God"

### Magnetic Attraction

#### Acts 2:47

- Favor with all the people  
It's not what we do in our community  
but who we are in our community.  
Yet what we do must be a product of who we are.
- The LORD was adding to their numbers daily.  
Consistent growth  
Why?  
They saw . . . the Body of Christ

What is the magnetism in our church that would cause others to want to be added to us?

What is the mystical attraction in my life that would say he/she is authentic?

"Lord Jesus, I ask that You would so reveal Yourself in and through me that others would be drawn to You."

- Create in me a life that reflects transformation.
- Create in me a desire for Your Word.
- Create in me a fresh intimacy with Jesus.
- Create in us irresistible relationships.
- Create in me a life of generosity.
- Create in us a magnetic and contagious unity.
- We ask that it would be You who builds Your church as we respond in obedience and faith.