

The church began on Pentecost and consisted of over 3,000 members on its first day

1. The first "called out ones" were

- a) devout Jews living in Jerusalem
 - from every nation under heaven
 - many different languages
 - many different cultures and practices
- b) a great many of the priests
- b) proselytes = Gentile converts to Judaism
- c) they knew from day one that the Body would include Gentiles as well

2. All of them had

- a) repented, believed, been saved
- b) been baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ
- c) been baptized in Jesus' name

(Acts 2:5, 10, 37-47; 1 Cor 12:13)

3. They gathered at the temple day by day

- a) taking place through the apostles were
 - many wonders and signs
 - teaching
- b) the apostles were jailed
- c) they were commanded not to speak in Jesus' name any longer
- b) they continued to teach and preach Jesus and the believers grew to about 5,000

4. The believers were continually devoting themselves to

4342 προσκαρτερέω *proskartereo*
= to be steadfastly attentive to
= to give unremitting care to
= to persist, to keep on with devotion
= to continue to do something with intense effort → implying despite difficulty

☆ this verb is in the present tense indicating continuous ongoing action

- a) the apostles' teaching, who taught
 - Jesus as the Christ (Messiah)
 - the whole message of this Life
- b) fellowship
2842 κοινωνία *koinonia*
= community, joint participation
= close mutual association, relationships and involvement
 - taking their meals together from house to house
 - together from day to day
- c) the breaking of bread
 - sharing meals together
 - may also refer to the Lord's Supper, Communion
- d) prayer (plural) lit. "in the prayers"
 - with gladness (extreme joy)
 - praising God = WORSHIP

5. The infant church was living with one mind

3661 ὁμοθυμαδόν *homothumadon*
- from **3674 ὁμοῦ** *homou* = together
and **2372 θυμός** *thumos* = fierce passion
= rushing along in unison
= in togetherness, as one
= with unanimous consent

This unique Greek word ... helps us understand the uniqueness of the Christian community. The image is almost musical; a number of notes are sounded which, while different, harmonize in pitch and tone. As the instruments of a great concert under the direction of a concert master, so the Holy Spirit blends together the lives of members of Christ's church. — Enhanced Strong's Lexicon

☆ Jesus prayed for the unity of all believers
(John 17:20-23)

6. At the very beginning they enjoyed the favour of the people but quickly they began to be opposed and threatened

- by rulers, elders, scribes and priests
- the apostles were jailed and flogged
- Stephen was falsely accused, convicted and finally stoned to death

7. Then a great persecution began and the church in Jerusalem, except the apostles, was scattered throughout Judea and Samaria

(Acts 8:1-3)