

# St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups. Sept 11th 2005

## Whose Church is it anyway?

### Called to love God

Acts 2.41- 47      Mark 12.28 - 34



#### Word: Key points from Sunday's sermon

God lives in the hearts of People by his Holy Spirit... 'And the people devoted themselves' / we devote ourselves...

**to the apostles' teaching; to fellowship; to breaking of bread; to prayer; to giving to anyone in need; to meeting together to worship and praise God**

This is how the early church worked out their daily living after the Holy Spirit came upon them in power. Jesus command to his followers in relation to obedience to the law was to Love the '**Lord you God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength**'.

To love God means we have a relationship with him. Christianity is not about a rule book but about our relationship with God as Being.

God chose to come to us and to dwell with us in all; our sorrow and sin. He came as close to us as possible, therefore showing us his love in not judging us unworthy of his presence: both 1000BC in the Temple and in the coming of his Son Jesus.

We love God therefore because he first Loved us. How do we love Him ?

How to love him:

- Love the LORD with All your heart and with all your soul ~
- Devoted to prayer, to worship and praise, to breaking bread and meeting together, to worship is to draw near to God to kiss his hands, it is face to face, not the distance of a fan. We are worshipper not his fan club.
- Love the LORD your God with all your mind ~
- Devoted to the Apostles' teaching. Our mind is to be filled with thoughts of him and thinking about his ways, and using our minds to care for others. The more you know someone you love the more your level of intimacy with them grows, so through reading bible and being taught we know God better.
- Love the LORD your God with all your strength ~
- Devoted to sharing and giving to those in need. Where is our strength: in our bank balance; in our abilities to help others, in our creative skills.. what can you give to God through helping others with all your strength.



#### Witness: Questions to discuss

1. How much does the list at the top of the page reflect the Life at St Paul's?
2. What part of loving God is hard for you just at the moment ?
3. How do/can you make time to worship and learn and listen to God and build relationship?
4. What prevents people from loving God with all their possessions?
5. Why did the early church in Acts find favour with the people ?
6. What can we pray for to change in our lives so God is at the heart ?