

*January 10, 2016*

## **WHAT WAS THE ORIGINAL CHURCH LIKE?**

*Pat Cowden*

When Jesus said “I will build My church” (Matthew 16:18), He was not talking about just any old organization, He was talking about that which He would purchase with His own blood (Acts 20:28). Jesus taught His disciples for three + years to prepare them for service in the “kingdom” which was “at hand.” That kingdom was ushered in on the Day of Pentecost after His crucifixion and resurrection (Acts 2). What was the original church like? What were some identifying characteristics of the primitive “body of Christ”?

First, the church was united (John 17:32; Acts 4:32).

Second, the church was faithful (Acts 2:42).

Third, the church was liberal (Acts 2:44, 45).

Fourth, the church was strict (Acts 5:1-11) {There have always been and will always be hypocrites in the church}.

Fifth, the church was zealous ((Acts 4:4; 5:14; 8:4)

### **Conclusion:**

We should try to be just as united, faithful, liberal, strict, and zealous as was the early church. If we focus on one to the detriment of the others, we become something different than the God-approved plan for the church. My prayer for 2016 is that the South Anchorage church of Christ becomes all that she can be in light of God’s plan and purpose for her.