

Readings: Acts 2:41-47; 4:32-37; 5:12-14; 6:1-7 CoF. Art 28 (1)
Singing: 134:1-3 – 221:1-3 – 393:1-3 – 357:1-4

Intro: The New Testament Christian Church is Christ's exquisite treasure
A. It is His garden of delights for Him: Song of Solomon 5:1; HC: q/a 32

B. His garden needs to be cleansed and protected against invasive weeds

C. Therefore we are deep diving in God's teaching about His Church: CoF 27-29

What is striking in the description of God's Church in Acts?

A. That they are different Christians than our NZ Christian churches

1. They match Jesus' description of His Church: John 13:34-35
2. They were Christians who 'turned the world upside down' (Acts 17:6)

B. That they are genuine believers in & imitator of Jesus Christ

1. They match the ideal description of CoF art. 27-29 (see also HC, 54, 85)
2. They were imitator of Jesus Christ: Acts 10:38; 13:49; 8:4

C. That the leaders are gatekeepers in the Church of Christ (Acts 6:1-3)

1. God appointed watchmen in elders to protect the flock (Acts 20:28)
 - a. they must do all to keep hypocrites out though it will still fail
 - b. they are given spiritual means to keep flock healthy (CoF 29; 32)
2. God forbids us lowering His standards (Acts 2:40; 6:3; 1 Cor. 12:13)

Reflect & Act

- A. Before you request to join yourself to His true Church, you need to examine yourself thoroughly on John 1:12-13; 3:3, 5
1. Jesus' entry point for the Christian Church/Kingdom is the *new birth*
 2. Your new birth is known by your *new heart – new life* (CoF 29)
 - a. reflect on Phil. 3:3; Ruth 1:16-18; John 6:68-69
 - b. reflect on 1 Cor. 8:3 with 1 Cor. 2: 11

- you can know who you love: John 21:15-17

- you can know whom you trust for salvation: Matt. 16:15
- you can know what defines your happiness: John 13:17

B. If you are no stranger to God's heart renewing grace, you are bound to join yourself to a local Christian church (1 Cor. 12:18; Acts 2:40-42; CoF 28)

Dear children, may God help you to listen well tonight!

1. Why are saved sinners the dearest people on earth to the Lord Jesus?

2. The early Christians 'turned the world upside down.' How?



3. What makes a person a *true* Christian?

4. Joshua warned the people that God was jealous. Why did he say that?

5. On this earth there will never be a perfect church. Why is that true?

6. Paul explained that the only person who really know you (besides God), is you yourself! So here are three questions for you pray and think about. Discuss your answers with your parents.

- Do I love the Lord?
- Do I trust in the Lord?
- Do I find my greatest happiness in loving God and my neighbor?