

**#2 — People were given a higher priority than personal possessions.**

**Self-assessment Question: Am I WILLING to sell my possessions to help another?**

***“If you give what you don’t need, it isn’t giving at all.”  
~ Mother Theresa***

**1 John 3:14-19** - If we love our Christian brothers and sisters, it proves that we have passed from death to eternal life. But a person who has no love is still dead... We know what real love is because Christ gave up his life for us. And so we also ought to give up our lives for our Christian brothers and sisters. But if anyone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need and refuses to help — how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let us stop just saying we love each other; let us really show it by our actions. It is by our actions that we know we are living in the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before the Lord

**#3 — Eternity was given a higher priority than the present.**

**Hebrews 10:34** - You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail and when all your belongings were seized, you endured your loss gladly. You knew you had better things waiting for you in eternity, things that would be yours forever.

**Psalm 119:11** I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.



A Dynamic Church...

Acts 2:42 – 47

Petaluma Valley Baptist Church

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**John 15:5** – I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who remain in me and I in them, will bear much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

**Acts 2:42-47** – They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

**Acts 2:44-45** – All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

**Acts 4:32 – 37** - All the believers were of one heart and mind, and they felt that what they owned was not their own; they shared everything they had... There was no poverty among them, because people who owned land or houses sold them and brought the money to the apostles to give to others in need. For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas... He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles for those in need.

**Psalm 119:105** Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

**2 Corinthians 8:1-8** - Now I want to tell you, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done for the churches in Macedonia. Though they have been going through much trouble and hard times, their wonderful joy and deep poverty have overflowed in rich generosity. For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford but far more. And they did it of their own free will...now I want you to excel also in this gracious ministry of giving. I am not saying you must do it, even though the other churches are eager to do it. This is one way to prove your love is real.

**Luke 14:12-14** - Then he turned to his host. "When you put on a luncheon or a dinner," he said, "don't invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will repay you by inviting you back. Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. Then at the resurrection of the godly, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you."

**Luke 19:8-9** - Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have overcharged people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!" Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a son of Abraham."

**Romans 12:13** - When God's children are in need, be the one to help them out. And get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the night.

**1 Timothy 6:17-19** - Tell those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which will soon be gone. But their trust should be in the living God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and should give generously to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may take hold of real life.

**Psalm 119:16** I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word.

## ***They were believers in JESUS***

***"All together and had all things in common" = UNITY OF BELIVERS***

### ***Who is JESUS?***

**John 14:6** – I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

**1 Timothy 2:5** - For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and people. He is the man Christ Jesus.

**Galatians 3:13** - When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4** - I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me — that Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, as the Scriptures said.

**Step 1: A TRUE belief and conviction of who Jesus is.**

### ***3 Guiding Principles to a Dynamic Christian Life***

**#1 – Unity was given a higher priority than individuality.**

**Develop a LIFESTYLE of SERVICE**

**Philippians 2:3-8** - Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing. Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross.

**Psalm 119:98** Your eternal word, O Lord, stands firm in heaven.

