

Sermon Handout

Genuine Unity

Acts 1:11-14

- I. The Earliest Gathering of the Post-resurrection Church**
 - a. They obeyed Jesus' command 1:4 *cf.* Lk 24:49
Returned to their meeting (lodging?) place in Jerusalem
 - b. The identified company
 - i. The Eleven
Lists of the 12: Lk 6:14ff; Mt 10:2ff; Mk 3:16ff
Noteworthy variations (*see* Jn 14:22)
 - ii. The Women (including Mary, Jesus' mother)
With Jesus in his travels Lk 8:2-3
At the crucifixion Jn 19:25; Mk 15:40
At the tomb Jn 20:1, 11-18
 - iii. Jesus' brothers (younger children of Mary & Joseph)
Infrequently mentioned in the Gospels
Mt 12:46ff; 13:55; Mk 3:31ff; Jn 2:12; 7:3, 5
Mentioned twice by St. Paul
I Cor 9:5; Gal 1:19
Converted after the resurrection
As Acts 1:14 makes clear (*cf.* Gal 1:19)
 - c. Their activity
 - i. Praising God in the Temple Lk 24:53
 - ii. United in prayer and supplication v. 14
cf. 2:42-47
- II. True human unity results from the New Covenant community**
 - a. False unity
 - i. Racial or socio-economic
 - ii. Political
 - iii. Familial
 - iv. Blurring the sexes
 - v. Common speech
 - vi. Unified opinions
 - b. True unity
 - i. Cannot be enforced by human government
 - ii. Is only a result of incorporation into the Body of Christ
I Cor 12:12-13; *See* Mt 12:46ff