"The Church Which Was At Jerusalem"
Acts 8:1

Introduction:
A. “The church which was at Jerusalem” was the first church of Christ ever.
B. “The church which was at Jerusalem” had several marks worthy of our study.
   1. Strong points among her membership.
   2. Weak points among her membership.

Discussion:
I. The Composition Of Her Membership.
   A. Baptized believers. (Acts 2:36-38, 41, 47)
      1. Baptism did not automatically make the members of local church.
      2. Jerusalem was unique — only local church — every member on earth in it.
   B. Apostles—had benefits of direct apostolic oversight.
   C. Jews from many countries in Jerusalem for passover. (Acts 2:5-13)
      1. These likely remained there for sometime before going home.
      2. This likely explains extra-ordinary needy for benevolence and hospitality.

II. The Steadfastness Of Her Membership.

III. The Courage Of Her Membership.
   A. Their boldness required courage. (Acts 2:36; 4:13-31)
   B. Their sacrifices required courage.

IV. The Unity Of Her Membership.
      1. Being of one accord did not make them right. (cf. Acts 7:57)
      2. Being of one accord in the right made them right.
   B. “Together” (Acts 2:44)
   C. “One heart and one soul” (Acts 4:32).

V. The Generosity Of Her Membership.
   A. They had “all things common” (Acts 2:44,45; 4:32).
      2. Only because extreme circumstances demanded it.
   B. They ate their food “from house to house” (KJV) or “at home” (ASV). (Acts 2:45,46).
      1. Many away from home needed food, lodging — not merely socializing.
      2. Biblically, “hospitality” met the needs of guests (lodging—food).
         a. PHILONEXIA (philoi=love xenos=guest, host, stranger. Cf. Rom. 12:13; Heb.13:2)
         b. XENIZO— “entertained”, “lodged”. (cf. 1 Tim. 5:10).
   C. Generosity and even love of hospitality is an attitude of heart.
      1. Expressed in keeping with ability and opportunity. (Gal. 6:10; Phil 4:10)
         a. Do what can in keeping with physical, financial and circumstancial abilities.
         b. Be careful about judging others — only God know’s another’s abilities and circumstances.

VI. The Problems Of Her Membership.
   A. External persecution.
   B. Internal problems.
   C. Problems solved.
      1. First by direct divine discipline.
      2. Second by apostolic direction.

Conclusion:
A. “The church which was at Jerusalem” can teach us a lot.
B. How well are we learning the lessons — we need to work at it.