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- We continue steadfastly in doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and in prayers.

How did christian life develop

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- **Join voices sharing peace.**

I give thanks to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always, having heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which you have toward all the saints, because of the hope which is laid up for you in the heavens.

You heard the truth of the gospel, which came unto you; bearing fruit, since the day you heard and knew the grace of God. Amen.

(Colossians 1: 3-6 ASV)

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- **Why do Christians meet on Sunday?**

- **Text:** Mark 16: 14 ASV

Afterward he was manifested unto the eleven themselves as they sat at meat; and he upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them that had seen him after he was risen.

- **Text:** John 20: 19 & 26 ASV

When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were

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shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

- After eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them. Jesus cometh, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.
- **Text:** Acts 20: 7 ASV

And upon the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul discoursed with them, intending to depart on

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the morrow; and prolonged his speech until midnight.

- **Text:** I Corinthians 16: 2 ASV

Upon the first day of the week let each one of you lay by him in store, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come.

- **Text:** Revelation 1: 10 ASV

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.

- Jewish Christians frequented synagogues.

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They continued to observe festivals appointed in the law, and only by degrees connected with them Christian ideas. They kept the Sabbath on Saturday, according to Mosaic commandment. But, side by side with this observance, there grew the custom of meeting for Christian worship on the first day of the week, the day of the Lord's resurrection. The first spontaneous gathering of Christians began with meetings of the eleven apostles in the upper room.

- **Where did they meet?**

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Text: Acts 3: 1 ASV

- Peter and John were going up into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.
- After attending ordinary Jewish worship at the prescribed hours, they met in groups at private houses. In these meetings they sat at the table together partaking of a meal, the *agape* or love feast. At the close of the meal, whomever presided handed round the bread and wine as Jesus had done at the Last Supper. This was the primitive form of the Lord's Supper we

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celebrate today.

- **Text:** Acts 18: 1-3 ASV

Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth. And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, a man of Pontus by race, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome: and he came unto them; because he was of the same trade, he abode with them, and they wrought, for by their trade they were tentmakers.

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Text: Acts 18: 18-19 ASV

- Paul sailed for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.
- **Text:** Acts 18: 24-19 ASV

A certain Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by race, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the scriptures. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spake and taught

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accurately the things concerning Jesus, knowing only the baptism of John: and he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more accurately.

- We find at both Corinth and Rome Aquila and Priscilla, provided a place of assembly in their house. At Ephesus, Paul held meetings in the school of Tyrannus, which was hired for this purpose.

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- **How did they worship?**

- **Text:** Colossians 4: 16 ASV

When this epistle hath been read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye also read the epistle from Laodicea.

- **Text:** I Thessalonians 5: 27 ASV

I adjure you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the brethren.

- The apostles journeyed, especially Paul,

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promoting mutual knowledge and a spirit of union among the scattered fellowships. Their letters were sent from one fellowship to another by almsgiving and liberal exercise of hospitality and charity.

- Worship was expression of feeling copied from synagogue service. Selections of the Old Testament were read. Spontaneous speaking followed. If a letter arrived, it was read to the assembly. Prayer was in part the function of the leader of the service. Hymns were sung from the Psalms by individuals and the assembly. A

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short devotion opened and a benediction closed the service.

- **Text:** Acts 2: 36-38 ASV

Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly, that God hath made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom ye crucified. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Brethren, what shall we do? And Peter said unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus

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Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- The one article of faith was that Jesus is the Messiah. Whoever acknowledged Him in this character was baptized by immersion.
- **How did the New Testament come to be?**
- **Text:** II Timothy 3: 16-17 ASV

Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness. That the

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man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work.

- Scripture is God breathed! It was not the intention of apostles to create a permanent literature, nor did they foresee their writings were going to be compiled into a volume and stand in the eyes of posterity on a level with the law and prophets. For a considerable time the words and works of Jesus were orally related. The apostles spent a number of years in and around Jerusalem and their oral teaching became the written oral tradition, the New Testament.

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- **Why follow first century traditions?**
- **Text:** II Peter 2: 1-3 & 9 ASV

False prophets arose among the people, and there shall be false teachers, who shall privily bring in destructive heresies, denying even the Master, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. Many shall follow their lascivious doings; by reason of whom the way of the truth shall be evil spoken of. In covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose sentence now from of old lingereth

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not, and their destruction slumbereth not. The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment unto the day of judgment.

- Discipleship is a way of life; sunday, monday, tuesday, wednesday, thursday, friday, and saturday. Begining and ending at home every day, the family; the husband, the wife, and their children; must walk in the ways of Christ Jesus. It is not possible to follow practices different from His and be a disciple.

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Join voices in a Benediction Prayer.

I declare that I have the heart of Christ, the eyes of Christ, the compassion of Christ. I ask the Holy Spirit to keep my thoughts pure because I can be tempted.

*You are invited to join us
Sunday morning we gather to celebrate the
Lord's Supper and worship at 10:00 am.*