



A PERIOD OF PEACE AND PROGRESS

Acts 9:31

THE CHURCH WAS — Unified

- Judea (South Jews); Galilee (North Jews; **Isaiah 9:1; John 1:46; 7:52**); Samaria (**John 4:9**)
- *“the church”* (ASV, ESV, NASB)
- Unity and peace — **Isaiah 2:2-4; Ephesians 2:14-18; 4:3**
- *“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!”* (**Psalms 133:1**)

THE CHURCH WAS

Unified

at Peace

Peace Follows Perseverance

- Conflict — Peter and John, Stephen, Disciples
- Great perseverance (**Acts 9**):
 - Ananias obeyed
 - Barnabas vouched for Saul
 - Church received Saul
 - Perseverance resulted in peace
 - **Acts 9:31**

THE CHURCH WAS

Unified
at Peace

Our only way to peace is by persevering in faith:

- Outer conflict — **Acts 14:22**
- Inner conflict:
 - Sin — purge it — **1 Cor. 5:6-7**
 - Error — refute it — **Titus 1:9-11**
 - Personal conflict — resolve it — **Philippians 4:2-3**
 - Divisiveness — stifle/avoid it — **Romans 16:17**
- Peace comes through faith — **Philippians 4:9**

THE CHURCH WAS

Unified
at Peace

Edified

“being built up” (ESV, NASB)

- Gamaliel’s prediction —
Acts 5:35-39 — left alone, but strengthened further because it was of God.
- The time of peace should not be squandered, but utilized to strengthen the ranks —
Ephesians 4:11-16; Judges 2:7-11; Zephaniah 1:12

THE CHURCH WAS

—
Unified
at Peace
Edified
Faithful

Walking in the Fear of the Lord

- Fear led to growth — Acts 5:11, 13-14, 29
- Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge — Proverbs 1:7
- Fear of God keeps us in His love — Jude 1, 3-5, 20-21
- Fearing God brings blessings — Proverbs 1:7-9; 9:10-11

THE CHURCH WAS

Unified
at Peace
Edified
Faithful

Walking in the Comfort of the Holy Spirit

- Comfort (*paraklēsis*) includes the idea of counsel, instruction, exhortation — Acts 4:36; 11:22-26
- Truth resulting in peace/cheer — John 14:26-27; 16:13, 33
- Comfort through knowledge from the Holy Spirit — 2 Cor. 1:3-4; 4:13-15; 1 John 3:24; 5:13, 18-21

THE CHURCH

WAS

—

Unified

at Peace

Edified

Faithful

Multiplied

- Acts 9:31 — the reason for the numeric growth was their faithful walk.
- Gimmicks don't attract true disciples — John 6:26-27, 44-45; 1 Corinthians 2:14-15
- Disciples make disciples — Matthew 28:18-20
- True faith on display leads to the conversion of others — 1 Peter 3:15; Acts 8:4



A PERIOD OF PEACE AND PROGRESS

Acts 9:31