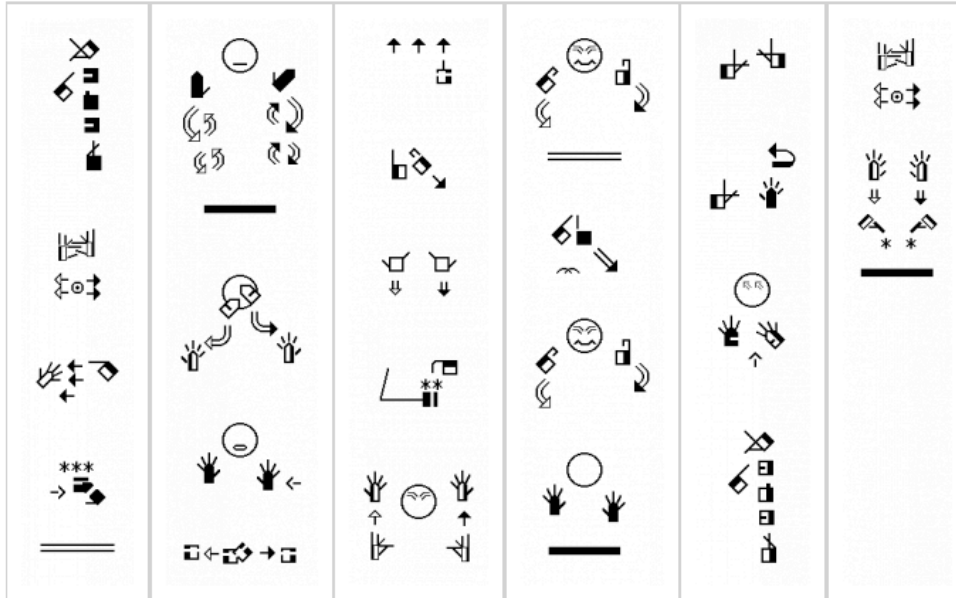


THE GENERATION GAP

Acts 2:40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, **Save yourselves from this untoward generation.**



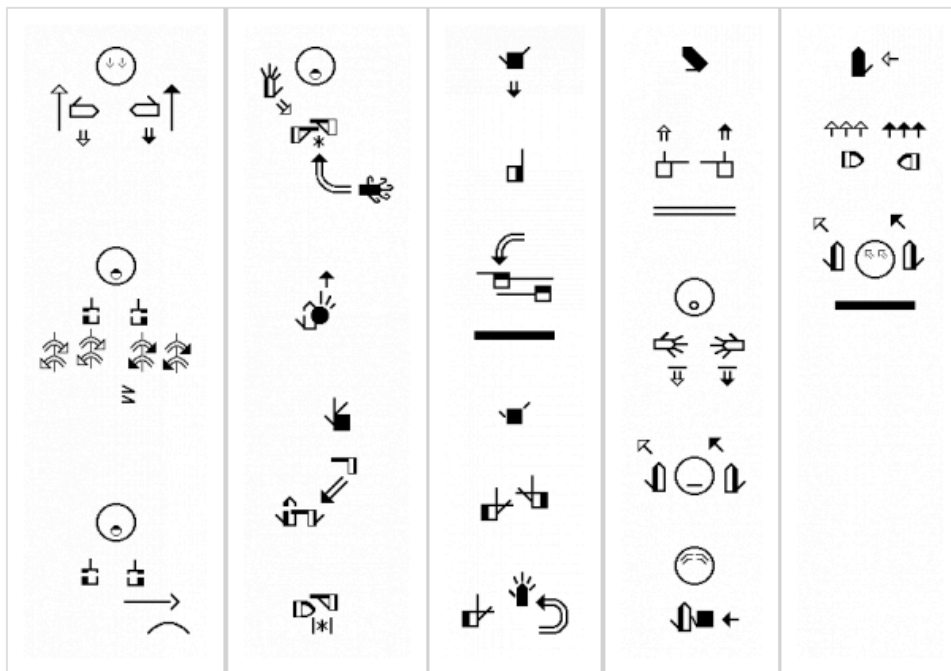
Words, signs, even body language, especially body language speaks to people. Its the foolishness of preaching that saves people. **(1 Cor. 1:18)** The “untoward” generation might have reappeared. “skolios” crooked and dishonest people. They know what is right but they refuse to change.

“Save yourselves” does not mean that we can earn or win our own salvation but it means by leaving the way of the world and joining Jesus Christ we will be saved and it also means that we have a choice.

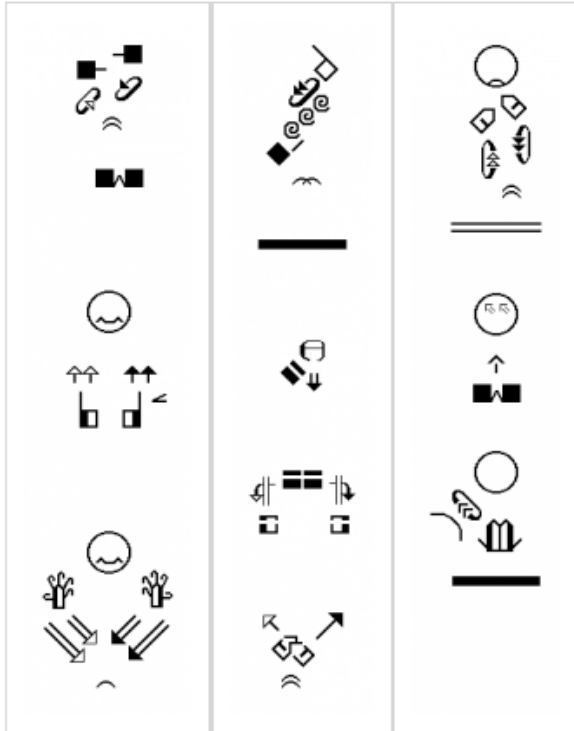
Receiving his, Peter’s, word means listening, believing, acting upon that message.

A church of 120 became a church of 3,120 in one day. The initiation rite into the church was water baptism. Three things to note: 1. It was done after believing. 2. The word baptism means immersion. 3. In was done in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **(Mat. 28:19)**

Acts 2: 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.



Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.¹



Disciples must obey God's commands, according to Biblical patterns and establish Christian habits. The first Christians believed and were baptized. Those two are the foundation acts of obedience.

This one verse outlines the basic activities of the early disciples and the pattern that all churches should follow. To implement these patterns other behaviors are implied. It is implied that they needed a common schedule. Sometimes keeping a schedule is inconvenient; it is implied that discipleship has priority. It is implied there are truths to be learned. The implication being some people will disagree. It is implied that they will need to agree on a location to gather. Furthermore, it is implied there will need to be order and rules.

These things need to be stated because in modern culture people expect the benefits of organization without submitting personally; that is impossible.

So, what is the pattern that we should emulate? **Steadfastness.** Probably one of the most important habits that most people excuse themselves for not doing.

These four habits must be the pattern of every individual disciple to successfully endure and overcome Satan and the influences of the world. They are not commands but vital habits that need to be developed. (III.) Just like our vehicles, or our bodies need regular, continuous, and steadfast care so the new life that God has given us needs maintenance. **(1 Pe. 2:2)**

Most of the early Christians did not have immediate access to the Scriptures at home. Yet, because they continued steadfastly in the Apostle's Doctrine they stayed strong. They learned this doctrine when they fellowshipped steadfastly continually. Corporate prayer was a also a regular habit of believers. Through prayer, and breaking of bread these believers were able to keep the church pure and holy, fit for the Master's use. **(2 Timothy 2:21)**

If someone considers himself a disciple of Christ he should avail himself of these four means of grace steadfastly and continually. There is a generation, a people living during a certain time period, that think they can follow Jesus without these habits. They will be poor disciples indeed. There are others that add so much extra activities to the church that the basic four are neglected. Their discipleship will also be deficient. When people say let the church be the church, this pattern is what it should be.

¹ Act 02 40-42.pages

