

THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH Pt. 2 (God’s Way, Not Man’s Way)

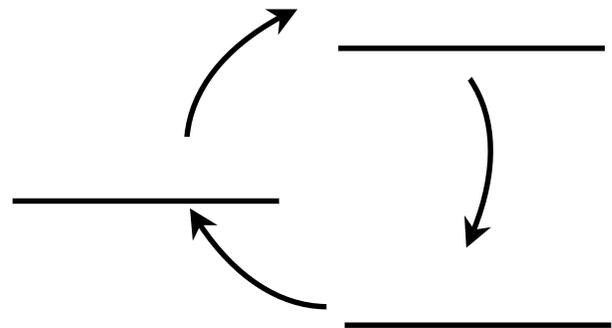
IV. THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH — GOD’S WAY (Ephesians 4:7-16)

A. The PRINCIPLES.

1. Church growth begins with _____ and God’s _____. (4:7)
2. Church growth involves Jesus Christ giving _____ of His _____ to His Church. (4:8-11)
3. Church growth requires that the gifted communicators of God’s truth concentrate on the _____ of the saints via sound doctrine. (4:12a)
4. Church growth necessitates that the equipped saints _____ the _____ of _____. (4:12b)
5. Church growth is to result in the church being built up qualitatively through _____ and normally quantitatively through _____. (4:12c)

* How does ministry to the saved show itself?

* How does ministry to the unsaved show itself?



* How long of a process does this involve?

6. Church growth manifests itself with reaching such spiritual objectives as...
 - a. corporate _____. (4:13a)
 - b. personal _____ of Jesus Christ. (4:13b)
 - c. full spiritual _____. (4:13c)
 - d. spiritual _____ and _____. (4:14)

7. Church growth has as its primary means being _____
_____. (4:15a)

* What does this mean over the pulpit and in personal relationships within the Body?

* How about in evangelism?

* In what areas is this to affect?

8. Church growth has as its ultimate Authority and Resource the _____
_____. (4:15b-16)

* Why is this crucial?

* Does God expect one individual to do it all?

B. THE PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

1. Since church growth begins with the grace of Christ (4:7) and ends with the power of Christ (4:16), we need to resist _____ or _____ to motivate and accomplish divine objectives.

2. If the gifted men are to equip the saints through teaching the Word of God, they need to be _____ of God's Word (2 Timothy 2:15). To do so, the congregation must recognize the pastor's commitment to _____ and _____. To have the freedom of time to devote to this, equipped and submissive saints need to come to the plate and relieve the pastor of _____ duties. Paying him a _____ if possible is also necessary (1 Timothy 5:17-18).

3. If equipped saints are to do the work of the ministry, they must _____ to get equipped. Hearing face to face teaching on a _____ basis from their pastor-teacher is crucial in the growth process. Unless they are being fed and growing themselves, they will run out of spiritual gas in serving the Lord. This is counterproductive.

4. The objective in equipping the saints is not to get people busy, but to let _____ to minister as needs arise and the Lord opens doors. This may be in _____ or _____ ways. It's amazing what ministries may happen.

5. Before we start a new ministry, the church leaders need to ask themselves, "Are there enough _____ to do the job?" If not, we should not start it, or this will lead to frustration, burnout, or people stretching themselves too thin.

6. When considering someone for a particular ministry, we look for the _____ people (faithful, available, and teachable) who are _____ and _____ in that area. We do not give them a position hoping they will be faithful and finally start serving. If they have not learned to do whatever they do faithfully as _____ (Colossians 3:23), we are playing spiritual Russian roulette. Also, unless they are _____ (Heb. 13:17) instead of being self-willed, we are going to potentially create a lot of problems.

7. Let's never downplay the importance of the _____. We have sought to train our future leadership from _____. This best secures the doctrine and _____ of our church (assuming these are good and godly) over the long haul.

8. Remember that the key to the _____ (ministry) is the _____ (your fellowship with the Lord). Otherwise, we will have a church full of Marthas (banging the pots and pans) instead of Marys (sitting at the feet of the Lord Jesus and serving with loving devotion under His power and direction).

9. Since the _____ of the church and the _____ of Jesus Christ are the bottom-line objectives, measure any potential ministry or change by asking "Will God be glorified and will the church be edified by this?" If not, we simply need to _____ it.

"One Another"

John 15:12 that you love one another as I have loved you.

Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

Romans 12:16 Be of the same mind toward one another

Romans 14:13 let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in *our* brother's way.

Romans 14:19 Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

Romans 15:5 be likeminded one toward another

Romans 15:14 to admonish one another.

Romans 16:16 Greet one another with an holy kiss.

1 Corinthians 12:25 the members should have the same care for one another.

Galatians 5:13 through love serve one another.

Galatians 5:15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

Galatians 5:26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ

Ephesians 4:2 bearing with one another in love,

Ephesians 4:32 be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another

Ephesians 5:21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:18 comfort one another with these words.

Hebrews 3:13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works

Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

James 4:11 Do not speak evil of one another

James 5:9 Do not grumble against one another

James 5:16 Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another

1 Peter 3:8 having compassion one of another

1 Peter 4:9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging

1 Peter 4:10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Peter 5:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."