



"A Church on Mission is Victorious!
Acts 20:17-28
Sept. 8, 2019

How can we experience victory as a church when we are on mission for Jesus?

Serve Jesus...

1. With humility. (Acts 20:19a)

- It is His grace that saves us. (24b)
- It is His Spirit that leads us. (23, 28a)
- It is His church that He purchased. (28)

2. With endurance through the hard times. (19, 24)

3. With confidence in all of God's Word. (20, 21, 27)

1. As you serve Jesus this week renew your desire to submit to Him in everything.
2. Identify a difficult area of serving Jesus right now and ask the Lord for His strength to endure.
3. Take time this week in God's Word and identify a problem or topic and then let His Word teach you. (Use a concordance or word search on YouVersion. Share with someone what you learned.)

Life Group Questions/ Discussion

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Main Thought of the Study: Why are some churches unhealthy and why are some churches healthy? What key ingredients bring victory for a church as they are on mission for Jesus?

Introduction Discussion: Discuss the difference of ownership responsibility you feel between a Dollar Store item and a new house or car. Describe the commitment level you feel when there is someone using both items...or misusing both items.

Reflections from the Message

1. As Paul was saying his “goodbyes” to the elders of Ephesus he summarizes the key elements of a healthy church. The first key element is “humility.” (Acts 20:19) Discuss the various definitions of “humility.” Read I Peter 5:1-6 and share with one another how pride can destroy churches and how humility keeps a church “on mission” for Jesus.

2. There are three expressions of a “humble” Christ-follower found in Acts 20. When we are humble we see the essential work of God’s grace in everything that we are doing. (Acts 20:24, also Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Corinthians 9:8) Share a recent example of God’s unmerited favor or blessing or provision in your life or ministry.

3. The next expression of humility in church is our daily reliance on the Holy Spirit. (Acts 20:23, 28) Identify the things you will see in a church that is operating in the flesh and a church walking in the Spirit. (Galatians 5:16-26)

4. The third expression of humility in a church is knowing that it is His church. (Acts 20:28) Discuss the purchase price of the church. (I Peter 1:18) When we truly know this truth it changes the way we serve and the way we treat one another. Why? Share a time when you had something that was valuable that was damaged by someone else. How did you feel?

5. The second key element in a healthy church after humility is “endurance.” (Acts 20:19) What kind of difficult trials did Paul face as he served the Lord? (2 Corinthians 2:4) When we endure trials together as a church we see Jesus shine even brighter. Share a time when you went through something difficult as a church and what it did to the relationships.

6. The last element of a healthy church that Paul mentions is a strong confidence in God’s Word. (Acts 20:20-21, 27, 29, 32) When a church moves away from the teaching of God’s Word it will lose its way. Why do churches tend to move away from the Bible? How does Paul describe the danger in Acts 20:29?

Digging Deeper:

Review all the things that the Word of God is doing in a healthy church according to 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Application:

- Take time as a group in prayer and thank the Lord for His love and calling on your life.
- Think of some way to humbly serve one another or someone in need as an expression of humility this week.