

'All In': Go All In on the Life God Offers | God's Glory – Our Good – Our Unity – Our Witness

- Putting sin to death – Clothing ourselves with righteousness: kindness | humility | forgiveness
Today = what happens when we bring those people together...we call it a church

Lots discussions this question: What is a successful church? Healthy church? (Good – Funny – Humble)
Attendance – Budgets – Property – Programs – Community Involvement – Baptisms – Conversions
Can big churches be successful? Unsuccessful? | Can small churches be successful? Unsuccessful?

To answer the question: What is the church built on? What is the built for?

- Built **on** the Word (Living and Written) - **1 Cor. 3:11** – 'For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ
- Built **for** Kingdom Impact - **Matt. 6:33** – 'But first seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you

Success - God glorified through impacted lives for His Kingdom | **must be built** | **Intention...accident**

Big Idea: Having a Renewed Life in Christ Means Building His Church Together

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. **Successful Churches:**

1. Devoted to Peace (15) – Be at peace

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Cannot disconnect v.14 'Above all put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony'
When love has its full effect, the result will be peace

This peace is both individual and corporate – Verse **'your heart'** | **'Called in one body'**

- **Individual:** Decision...make the ruling based on what brings you real peace with the real God.
I have a decision to make...great...are you at peace with God about it? I don't want to talk to God...
 - **Corporately:** Decision, we make ruling based on what brings peace with God and each other!
- Shalom: prophets' comprehensive word for God's full transformation covenant community's situation
God chose Israel salvation and calls to peace (Irony) | Chose us salvation and calls to peace (Irony)
Christ secured the end of the war between God and Man – Also the War between believers

- **Rule in your hearts** – Athletic term...presides a contest (Umpire) | Control...deciding factor
Is there a conflict in competition? Need an umpire | Peace is only found on the other side of conflict
WHISTLE – Foul on the play...unpeaceful like conduct | Not competition but reconciliation

Love motivates conflict and peace is the desired outcome = Decides which motives/impulses prevail
When the peace of Christ rules individual heart, the peace of Christ will rule the corporate fellowship

This kind of thing must be built...and it has to be a priority if we are to be a successful church

2. Driven by Proclamation (16) – Be in worship

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

- **Word of Christ** – Refers to the revelation Jesus brought into the world, which is Scripture
Not the word that Christ proclaimed but the word that proclaimed the Christ
- **Teaching** – Impartation of positive truth...orderly arrangement & effective communication
- **Admonishing** – Impartation of negative truth...Warn people the consequences of their behavior
(T) Information...abstract & theological | (A) Strong encouragement...practical & moral | **Put down**
- **In all wisdom** – Tactfully | Utilizing knowledge with experience as appropriate to the situation
Governed by insight into the situation and the people being addressed

Singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs – Paul loves to pile synonyms...little difference

- Psalms = Word put to music | Hymns = Expressions of praise | Spiritual Songs = Testimony
Christians have always expressed faith through song - Emotive expression of truth from the Word **KEY**

Word of Christ...dwell in you richly... Successful Church = God's Word must live like royalty

Hear | Handle | Hide | Hold fast = Read – Study – Live the Word | **BUILT**

WORD MUST LIVE IN YOU AS YOUR GREATEST POSSESSION **Do biblical...content W/O compromise**

3. Directed by God's Glory (17) – Be All In

And whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Whatever you do in word or deed – Used to count nouns | General command

By lip or by life - There is no sacred-secular split in God's eyes; He is sovereign over all

Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus – Not name it and claim it

This isn't ritualistic: it's not about an incantation or making the sign of the cross

"in the name of..." = authority, that signals two things:

- Commitment to that authority – Acting in a way that represents the 'Name'
- Empowered by that authority – Not my own power but the power of the 'Name'

Treating Christianity as a 'Side Hustle' – Family | Work | Friends | Finances...Sunday and Small Group

- What if every noun (is) and verb (do) in your life was placed under the name of our Lord Jesus
 - **Successful Churches are directed by this idea...and so are successful lives | RESULT**
v. 15 – 'And be Thankful' | V. 16 Thankfulness in your hearts to God
v. 17 - Giving thanks to God the Father through Him

Successful Churches: Devoted to peace – Driven by proclamation – Directed by God's Glory

- Thankful...full of gratitude | Thankfulness for what God has accomplished for us in Christ
- Thankful for God's grace – God's Spirit – God's Word – God's community...thankful for CHURCH

It must be built...it has to be intentional...will not happen on accident

Ikea Effect – 2011 study said people were willing to pay 63% more for furniture they assembled
Pay disproportionately high value on products they partially created

- To watch someone put together an entertainment center...don't watch people build the church
God glorified through impacted lives for His Kingdom
Built on the Word (Living and Written) – Built for God's glory

COMMUNION

There is no better day to take communion than this one

- Baptism = Symbolism of your personal relationship to Christ
- Communion = Symbolism of your corporate relationship to Christ