

THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH – GOD'S WAY

- A. The **SCRIPTURAL BASICS** of the "CHURCH". (Matthew 16:13-18)
- B. The **BIRTHDAY** of the CHURCH.
- C. The **NATURE** of the CHURCH and ISRAEL vs the CHURCH.
- D. The **DIVINE PLAN** to BUILD THE CHURCH.
- E. The **DOCTRINAL NOURISHMENT** to BUILD CHRIST'S CHURCH. - 1 Timothy 6:20-21
- F. The **GROWTH** of the CHURCH — GOD'S WAY (Ephesians 4:7-16)

* Let's understand the context of this passage: **EPHESIANS: THE HIGH CALLING AND LOWLY WALK OF THE CHURCH**

1. The PRINCIPLES.

- a. Church growth begins with _____ and God's _____.
(4:7) Why must we remember this?
- b. Church growth involves Jesus Christ giving _____
of His _____ to His Church. (4:8-11) Which ones are specifically mentioned and what were the roles?
- c. Church growth requires that the gifted communicators of God's truth concentrate on the _____
of the saints via sound doctrine. (4:12a)
 - What does "equipping" mean?
 - What do the saints need?
 - Why is this needed?
 - What is the primary role of the pastor-teacher?
- d. Church growth necessitates that the equipped saints _____ the _____ of _____.
(4:12b)
 - Who is to do the work of the ministry?
 - What is "ministry"?
 - Is the ministry "work"?
 - What are the imbalances to this?
- e. 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? Officially, by _____ of your local church.
Unofficially through the fulfillment of all the _____ of the New Testament.

- How does ministry to the unsaved show itself?

- How long of a process does this involve?

f. Church growth manifests itself with reaching such spiritual objectives as...

a. corporate _____. (4:13a)

b. _____. (4:13b)

c. full spiritual _____. (4:13b)

d. complete _____. (4:13c)

e. 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 to remember?
- Does God expect one individual to do it all?

2. THE PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.

- 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.
- 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 Tim. 5:17-18).
- 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.
- 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.

- e. 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.
- f. 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.
- g. 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.
- h. 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 appropriately with loving devotion under His power and direction).
- i. 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.
- j. And when God builds & grows the Church, His way, then we can say together: *Now to _____ who is _____ exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, _____ in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.* (Eph. 3:20-21)