

Disciples & Discipleship

2 Peter 1:3–15

p. 1207

Review: What is Ultimate, (2) Essential, and (3) Important.

*We have said that a church's ultimate priority is to glorify God.

*We then identified two essential marks of a healthy church:

→ Expositional Preaching, and → Sound Gospel Doctrine.

*Important marks of a healthy church:

- A right understanding of conversion & evangelism.
- A biblical understanding of church membership.
- biblical church discipline
- a biblical concern for discipleship and growth;
- biblical church leadership;
- biblical understandings of the practices of prayer & missions;

3 questions to consider when developing a biblical understanding of church membership:

1. What is a church?
2. Why join a church?
3. What does church membership entail?

***...if these qualities are yours and are increasing,
they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful...***

1. A strong warning...

- There is a false lie taught in modern Christian culture, that I fear is deceiving people into hell.
- This is the false idea that there is a breed of Christian who stays in perpetual infancy.
- To put it another way: it is a lie that says someone can come to faith in Jesus and never grow in the faith.

Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election...

→ CONFIRM your salvation → THIS WAY into the kingdom.

★ **ALIVE THINGS GROW... growth is a sign of life;
where there is no growth, things die.**

John 6...

**Jesus is not looking for fans who follow;
He wants disciples who abide.**

**Salvation is not an isolated transaction,
it is wholesale surrender.**

How the Bible speaks of conversion...

**A healthy church is characterized by having members who are seriously concerned with their spiritual growth. In a healthy church, people want to get better at following Jesus.*

We must develop a biblical concern for discipleship and growth.

So... how then do we grow?

(1) God has given us everything we need for life and godliness.

"Means of grace" –

(2) God gives growth.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

(Philippians 2:12–13, ESV)

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

(1 Corinthians 3:6–7, ESV)