

The Growth of the Church

Church Growth By Right Relationships

Introduction

- 1. We're continuing our study of church growth.**
- 2. The church can't grow unless brethren have the proper relationships with each other.**
- 3. The proper relationship can't exist unless the proper **attitude** does exist.**
- 4. Let's look at some areas in which we can help the church grow by having the right attitudes and relationships with one another.**

In Winning Back an Offended Brother

Proverbs 18:19 A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle.

- 1. If each had the spirit of forgiveness, it would not be too difficult.**

Colossians 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

- 2. If you have offended a brother, you should try very hard to be reconciled to that brother.**

Matthew 5:23-24

We Should Not Imagine Evil Against Our Brother

Zechariah 7:10Let none of you plan evil in his heart against his brother.'

- 1. Too many people let their imaginations and suspicions run wild--judging someone else before they truly have all the facts.
Matthew 7:1-5**
- 2. Every tree is known by its fruit---not the way the leaves are blowing (Luke 6:44).**

We Should Forgive Our Brother

- 1. Not only should we forgive, but we should keep on forgiving!**

Matthew 18:21-22 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

- 2. If we are truly striving to be like our Savior, then we WILL forgive.**

Luke 23:34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

- A. Jesus forgave His enemies - how much more should we forgive our own brothers and sisters that are IN Him?**

- 3. We must forgive to get forgiveness.**

Matthew 6:14-15 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

We Should Try to Restore a Fallen Brother

1. We should be spiritual enough to do this.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

2. God has a law of pardon for the erring.

James 5:16, 19-20

Acts 8:22"Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.

1 Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We Should Withdraw from the Disorderly Brother

2 Thessalonians 3:6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.

- 1. We should do this so that the brother may be ashamed and want to return to God, truly repentant!**

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

- 2. This should be done to save both the brother and the church.**

1 Corinthians 5:5-6 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

- A. It is important that we take action against an erring brother immediately. As soon as the error is exposed. If not, the whole church will be effected in some way.**

(SHOW APPLE WITH A BRUISE).

Ecclesiastes 8:11 Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

We Should Truly Love Our Brethren

1. Love the brotherhood.

1 Peter 2:17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

2. God teaches us to love.

1Thessalonians 4:9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

A. Aren't things much better when there's genuine love abounding among the brethren?

3. Those that hate a brother is considered a murderer.

1 John 3:15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

1 John 2:9-11 He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

A. We can easily understand that a murderer is bad -- one that hates his brother is EQUAL!

Conclusion

- 1. If we will have the right attitude and relationship with each other then the church WILL grow! (Both in numbers and more importantly spiritually)**

A. Let us all remember the words of Jesus:

Matthew 7:12 "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

- 2. Let's make sure our lights are forever shining so that not only those in the world will know we are Christians but it will also show among our own brethren!**

Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

- 3. People will be influenced - to do RIGHT!**
- 4. When true love and happiness are radiating from the church then others WILL want to share it and be part of it.**
 - A. People want to belong and when they visit a group that really practices their love by their actions then they'll want to be part of true CHRISTIANITY!**
 - 1) That's church growth – achieved through having right relationships!**

