

The Making of a Strong Church

Introduction

1. **There is admiration of power and strength while there is pity and in those things which are weak and puny.**
2. **Christ meant for the church in which He established to be strong in all aspects.**

A. It should be able to withstand evil and sin – to last forever.

Ephesians 6:11-12

Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which **we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.**

B. However, for the church to be strong and to remain strong, it must be composed of strong members.

- 1) **Remember this, that the church is only as strong as its members.**

3. **We are shown the way of strength in the Lord.**

Proverbs 10:29 **The way of the LORD is strength for the upright,** But destruction will come to the workers of iniquity.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

4. **Ask yourself this question:**

A. “If every member of this church were just like me, what kind of a church would this church be?”

Things That Are Not Necessary

- 1. To have a large number of members.**
 - A. One good, strong team is worth more than a dozen weak, uncommitted ones.**

- 2. To have wealth and a beautiful building.**
 - A. It is good to have nice things if they are used wisely and rightly in the sight of God, but these things are not necessary.**

- 3. To have programs, demonstrations, and modern day entertainment.**
 - A. These things have no part of the Lord's plan for the church.**

Things That Are Necessary

1. Loyalty to God and His word.

John 15:7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

A. It is so very important to exercise steadfastness and faithfulness in all aspects of our service to God.

Hebrews 3:13-14 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "TODAY," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

B. Keep God and Christ close to your heart Mark 12:30

C. Hold dearly to His law as our guide in all things.

Psalms 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

1 Peter 4:11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God.....

2. **Members who are genuinely converted to Christ.**

- A. There are too many in churches who have a tendency to “profess” only and who are not engaged in all aspects of Christianity.**

Luke 6:46

Matthew 7:21

- B. Half-hearted service and indifference means weakness.**

Luke 9:62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Revelation 3:14-16 And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth."

- C. Notice Paul’s admonitions:**

Romans 12:1-2

- 1) **Truly converted Christians will attend all services, classes, and will live the Christian life every day!**

3. **Members who forsake evil and do that which is good.**

1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

- A. A Christian must not and cannot engage in worldliness and sin.**

1 John 2:15-17

- B. Doing good is the business of the Christian.**

Ephesians 2:10

4. Members who are “unsatisfied.”

- A. It is important to distinguish the difference between being “dissatisfied” and “unsatisfied.”**
 - 1) The dissatisfied are the “wrecking crew” but the unsatisfied have the attitude of “what we have done is good, but by the help of God we can do more and better tomorrow.”**
- B. People who are satisfied with everything as it is have already accomplished their best work.**
- C. For an example of what I’m talking about, let’s look at this attitude that was manifested by the apostle Paul:**

Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and **reaching forward to those things which are ahead**, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, **let us go on to perfection**, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

Conclusion

- 1. Let us not boast of the past to the extent of losing sight of the future with its opportunities.**
- 2. Since the church is made up of individual members, if it is to be strong, then the members must be strong.**
- 3. May we all strive to live and develop in the church as God teaches:**
Ephesians 4:14-16

