**Building An Evangelistic Church (SR: Matt. 16:13-19)**

Those who are interested in church growth are forever trying to find the right method. Being the right kind of people and having the right kind of heart is much more important than the method we use.

**I. He Will Build On Spirituality (Phil. 2:5)**

A. The Bible teachers we are to become “partakers of the divine nature” (2Pet. 1:4).

1. This means we are to become like God. As we develop spirituality, we have the mind of Christ. When a church begins to think as Jesus did, it will be an evangelistic church (Lk. 19:10).

2. It takes spiritually minded people to give, work, and live as to cause the church to grow.

B. Let us resolve to develop ourselves spiritually.

1. We should put into our schedule time each day to study God’s Word. We should also schedule a time to win souls each week. We never have time; we must make it. Maybe instead of thinking about how we can fit studying the Bible into our schedule, we should develop our schedules around our Bible study.

2. How did the church grow so greatly in the 1st century? Not because of miracles, but because of the gospel (Rom. 1:16). Boldly they preached (Acts 5:42; 6:7; 11:21; 12:24).

**II. Build On Love.**

A. Jesus declares love is the identifying characteristic of His disciples (Jn. 13:34f).

1. If God’s people had the degree of love they should, more people would be eagerly listening to what we have to say. People don’t care what you know until they know that you care.

2. People rarely see genuine acts of love. We can help them. Many would want to be a part of us and would gladly listen to our message.

B. Love is not something that we merely feel; it is something that we do. And what we do in love is evangelistic!

**III. Build An Evangelistic Leadership.**

A. One of the greatest problems in the church today is leadership.

B. Far too often leadership is hesitant. Comfort and solidarity in a smaller group, feelings of inferiority at the prospect of growth, and a variety of other issues may cause this.

1. Whether we are interested in church growth or not, God wants it (Lk. 14:21, 23). Go quickly!

2. If the Lord does not want the church to grow, why did He give the commission? (Mk. 16:15)

**IV. Build A Trained Membership.**

A. After we have taught and baptized people, we are to teach them to teach others (Matt. 28:19f).

1. There is teaching before and after baptism. That after baptism involves teaching converts to do all that Christ commands. That is in the NT (1Tim. 3:15). The early disciples went preaching (Acts 8:4).

2. We can touch the lives of more than the average Christian did in the 1st century.

B. There are not many soul winners in most churches because we have not trained soul winners.

**V. Build By Sowing Bountifully.**

A. We have the guarantee of God that if we sow bountifully, we will reap bountifully.

B. The Jerusalem church was accused of having filled their city with the doctrine of Christ (Acts 5:28).

1. They sowed the seed bountifully daily (Acts 5:42). Even persecution did not stop the early Christians (Acts 8:4).

2. More than half the world today has never heard a portion of the gospel.

**VI. Build With Evangelistic Assemblies.**

A. The Bible teaches we are to worship properly (Jn. 4:24).

1. The Corinthians became spiritually sick because their worship was lacking (1Cor. 11:30).

2. Our meetings need to always be warm, friendly, vibrant, and joyful.

B. Let us take a hard look at our assemblies. Why should anyone return if there is nothing here for them?

**VII. Build By Faith (2Cor. 5:7).**

A. If we plan with faith, God will bless our work.

B. It takes a positive attitude to build an evangelistic church.

1. Weak faith will not fill classrooms, cause sacrifice, or powerful preaching.

2. The only real motivation is by what we believe. Faith comes from God’s Word (Rom. 10:17). Faith is powerful (Mk. 9:23; Phil. 4:13; Lk. 1:37).

C. The first few chapters of Acts describe the growth of the Jerusalem church.

1. After some 3,000 coverts the first day, there were additions daily (Acts 2:41, 47).

2. Soon the number was even higher in the thousands (Acts 4:4). The early church was sowing a lot of seed! Why? They had faith!

**VIII. Build By Prayer (Jn. 14:14).**

A. God blesses prayer.

1. Why do we not have more growth? (James 4:2)

2. Why not pray for the things that will enable you to lead people to Christ? (James 4:3)

3. Prayer will cause us to love each other, to love the Lord, to grow spiritually, to greater faith & dedication, & to work harder for God.

B. Such a church will become a truly evangelistic church where God is glorified (Jn. 15:8).

Apostolic methods have not failed. God is not a God of failure. Who is in control of your life and this church? If God does not control your life, let Him.