Growing A Church

Tony Mauck · Luke 10:25–28

INTRODUCTION

- The point of tonight's lesson is for us to be that assembly we read about in Matthew 16. Truly his people.
- Just because we label something ekklesia or church, doesn't necessarily mean it's his ecclesia, or that it glorifies him.
- So just because it's a congregation, just because it's a church, doesn't necessarily mean it's what God wants. Even if it's a large and growing number of people.

1 Church Health, Not Church Growth

- It's more about church health than it is the church just growing.
- We are after health and success from God's perspective. Not any way that man might measure a healthy church.
- I would add this sixth step to truly be successful as God's people, and that is to be right through obedience.

2 Having the Right Answer Is Not Enough

Luke 10:25–28; Deuteronomy 6

- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, your soul, your strength, and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.
- You have answered correctly, do this, and you will live.
- Having the right answers about what makes us his church is not enough.
- We must translate that knowledge into living love for God with all of our being.

3 Jesus Adds, Jesus Knows, and Jesus Judges

Ephesians 4:4–6; Acts 2:47; 2 Timothy 2:19

- Understanding what Christ provided through his death and resurrection is the foundation of all true growth.
- The Lord knows those that are his. And who are they? Those who abstain from wickedness.
- Jesus adds, Jesus knows, and Jesus judges, and there is no good growth apart from truth.
- Apart from truth, it's meaningless. Because it is the truth that sets free.

4 Real Growth Is Spiritual

1 Peter 2:9–12; 1 Corinthians 14:37

- Real growth has to do with who we are and what we are spiritually.

- Are we those people that we read about in Luke chapter 10 who not just give the right answers but live those answers?
- Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, that they may observe your good deeds and glorify God in the day of visitation.
- Who are truly spiritual people? They are concerned about the things of the Spirit in all of them.

5 Growth Is a Very Personal Thing

Ephesians 4:16; Ephesians 3:20–21

- When we talk about the growth of a church, really it all boils down to you.
- Ultimately, the only person that I can control is me. And I have my hands full with that.
- Each member supplying his or her part. They can't make you do that.
- I'm not going to be a liability in this congregation. I'm going to supply something positive toward the goal of the glory of God.

6 Be a Grand Slam Disciple

Colossians 1:13; Ephesians 4:13

- We need to get people committed to the Great Commission.
- Sow a thought and reap an act. Sow an act and reap a habit. Sow a habit and you reap a character. Sow a character and you reap a destiny.
- The key to personal spiritual growth is the development of good habits.
- If we would learn to spend a little time each day with the Word of God, maybe just a verse, maybe just a few verses, maybe just a paragraph.

THE CHALLENGE

Do you need to come and embrace a thriving, living, vibrant relationship with our Lord and Savior on His terms?

MY NOTES