

Reading: John 15:1-8

Topic: Growing The Church & Its Ministries

Introduction: It is the will of God and the purpose of God to _____ His church and the ministries within the church in order to fulfill the plan of God to reach the _____ souls and to make disciples.

I. BY INCREASING ATTENDANCE:

A. People In Seats:

1. The goal of every church and every _____ within the church should be to get more people present in the services and in the _____ where they can be reached by the Gospel. Lk. 14:23
2. When people attend a meeting where the _____ of God is present and moving upon the people the hungry souls will know that something real and _____ is taking place. I Cor. 14:25,26
3. In the services and meetings is the place where many _____ respond to the Gospel and repent and are baptized in Jesus' Name and _____ the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:40,41

B. How To Increase Attendance:

1. From surveys and studies that have been done, the results show that only about _____ percent or less of people just happen to _____ in to a church uninvited.
2. Most people who show up to attend a _____ or a meeting have come because they have already had contact with or have been invited by someone from the _____.
3. There are several tried and proven _____ of getting people to come to the house of God or some kind of ministry meeting:
 - a. Through outreach and evangelism in public and residential areas.
 - b. Through encouraging every member of the church or ministry to become involved in inviting people.
 - c. Through the modern day mediums of websites, live-streaming, and social media.
 - d. Through special events i.e. conferences, concerts, etc. to which new people are invited.

II. BY CONNECTING NEW PEOPLE TO THE BODY:

A. No Connecting – No Staying:

1. Statistics and studies reveal that if visitors and new _____ attend meetings in a ministry or church and they do not make connections _____ some of the established people by their third _____, it is unlikely that they will ever return.
2. Making connections with new people and _____ must become intentional by the whole body by moving out of comfort _____ and begin talking to the new ones.

B. How To Make Real Connections:

1. The church must as a whole become conscious of any _____ people that are present and make the effort to do the following:
 - a. If you teach Home Bible Studies – offer them one or if not, introduce them to the Home Bible Study Director who can arrange for someone to teach them.
 - b. Get them connected to the Home Friendship Group in their area where they will get to know more people on a personal level – a place where experiences and testimonies will be shared and study and

discussion of the Word of God on a more personal level.

c. Assign a care partner to an individual or a care family to a family.

III. BY LEADING NEW PEOPLE TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY:

A. Making Disciples:

1. Jesus gave a command to His disciples to go and _____ the Gospel to people, to baptize them and then to _____ them again. Mt. 28:19,20
2. It is wonderful to see people respond and _____ the Gospel, but if they do not go on to spiritual growth and _____, they will become ineffective and probably backslide. Gal. 4:19

B. How To Bring People To Spiritual Maturity:

1. In order to lead people to spiritual _____ and maturity, there are certain intentional steps to be made:
 - a. The creating of an environment where every new convert can grow spiritually through the study of the Word of God, through learning how to pray and by association with mature believers.
 - b. Through enrolment of new converts in Discipleship classes, through regular attendance of church services and through involvement in small groups where questions can be asked.

IV. BY INVOLVING PEOPLE IN MINISTRY & BY DEVELOPING LEADERS:

A. Growing To Serve:

1. It is important for all new believers to be brought to the place of understanding that they have _____ saved to _____, not just to warm a seat in the sanctuary. Acts 1:8
2. God has given every individual certain abilities and _____ that are to be used for the work of God and ministry to _____. Mt. 25:15

B. How To Involve People In Ministry:

1. The work of getting people involved in _____ must also be intentional and planned:
 - a. By finding the gifts and talents that each individual possesses and then directing them to where they will be most effective in ministry and giving them opportunity to serve.
 - b. Through Ministry and Leadership training in Leadership classes, Purpose Institute, special seminars and other training opportunities.

CONCLUSION: There are only two things that cause a ministry and a church to grow and sustain that growth:

1. Reaching new people
2. Keeping and developing the people that are reached.