

# CHURCH GROWTH PRINCIPLES

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## NOTES

## What Happens to Dead Churches



Restaurant

Other Churches converted into secular businesses

Bar

Gym



Every church is only one generation away from Apostasy!

### NOTES

## **Disturbing Church Statistics (2022)**

- † 4,000 new churches begin each year and 7,000 churches close (15,000 closed in 2025)
- † Over 3,500 people a day leave the church each year
- † Over 1,500 pastors leave the ministry each month
- † Over 1,300 pastors were terminated by the local church each month, many without cause
- † Only 1 pastor out of 10 will retire as a pastor

### **NOTES**

Source: (<https://www.pastoralcareinc.com/statistics/>)

250,000 churches in America. If 10,000 close each year (15k-5K), then Christianity is gone in 25 years. Even Jesus said, "Will I find any faith on the earth when I return?" Luke 18:8

Yet Jesus also said the gates of hell will not prevail against His church (Mat 16:18).

How do we reconcile this? We must realize when Jesus comes for us church and takes them to be with Him (the Rapture), how true it will be that truth and faith will go by the wayside

## When is it appropriate to leave a church?

### 1. Abhorrent teachings

**Rom 16:17-18; 2Thes 3:6,14-15;  
2Cor 6:14; Rev 2:14-16**

### 2. Differing Philosophies

**Acts 15:39**

### 3. Judgment

**Jer 51:45**

### 4. They defame you (hostile environment)

**Prov 14:7; Mt 10:23; Lk 4:29-31;  
Acts 9:24-25; 18:6; 19:9**

## NOTES

**CAUTION ON DROPPING OUT OF CHURCH FRIVOLOUSLY.** Some churches in **Revelations 2-3** were noted for severe problems such as being dead (Sardis); lacking love (Ephesus), holding to false doctrines (Pergamum); tolerating immorality (Thyatira), and having wealth but no zeal (Laodicea); – Yet, Christ acknowledged them as His Church, and He applauded the true believers who were in them for hanging tough and remaining faithful.

**Rom 16:17-18** Avoid those who cause division;

**2Thes 3:6,14-15** Leave those who walk disorderly;

**2Cor 6:14** Be not bound with unbelievers;

**Acts 15:39** Avoid differing philosophies (e.g., idol worship);

**Jer 51:45** Come out of their midst;

**Prov 14:7** Leave the presence of a fool; **Mat 10:23** Leave persecution;

**Lk 4:29-31** Jesus left for another church when His church peeps tried to push him off a cliff; **Acts 9:24-25** Saul left when they sought to harm him; **Acts 18:6** Paul left when they resisted and blasphemed him;

**Acts 19:9** Paul withdrew from them when they became hardened and disobedient

## **Do We Want To Be A Mega Church?**

† **And WHY?**

† **Do we have what it takes?**

- **The infrastructure? The staff?**

- **The acumen? The vision?**

- **The teachers and counselors?**

† **Or do we just want to be as large as we can be based on our current skills and local demographics?**

### **NOTES**

## **What grows a church God's way?**

- Good doctrine?
- Good music and worship?
- Good teaching and preaching?
- Good programs and ministries?
- Friendly people? Prayerful people?
- Good facilities, cleaned & maintained facilities?

### **NOTES**

## **What are some major factors for Church stagnation or decline?**

† Do we have these in our fellowship?

- Sin in the camp? **Num 12:15**
- Not faithful in small things? **Lk 16:10**
- Poor leaders? Poor followers?
- Poor ministries? Poor facilities?
- Poor demographics? (e.g., church saturation within our community)

### **NOTES**

## **We should realize the following...**

- † **We can do everything right, yet experience negative growth**
- † **We can do everything wrong, yet experience positive growth**
- † **Decline may be due to 1 or 2 big things or a lot of “little foxes that ruin the vineyard” (i.e., people, things, and processes)**

### **NOTES**

## **GOD'S Kingdom Is All About Growth!**

† **OT Promise:** If you OBEY, you will be more than the stars and more than sand  
**Gen 22:17; 32:12**

† **NT Promise:** Recall the parables of  
1) Leaven that mushrooms into something bigger; 2) Good Seed that generates more; and 3) a Mustard Seed that grows into a tree  
**Mat 13:24-33**

### **NOTES**

## **We should realize the following...**

- † There are principles to follow to better position ourselves to grow God's way
- 1. Fix what is broken
- 2. Strengthen what is working
- 3. Teach the whole counsel of God
- 4. Do all things with love and prayer

### **NOTES**

## How Do We Best Position Ourselves For Growth?

† Ask hard questions:

- Are we a Family or a Business?
- What do we need to change?
  - Not, who do we need to change out
- When did the decline start & WHY?
- How much longer should we wait before we address our decline?

### NOTES

## How Do We Best Position Ourselves For Growth? (cont)

- † Identify what is broke and fix it
- † Identify what is working and strengthen it
- † Relieve the Elder(s) so they can Pray, Preach, and Teach/Counsel

### NOTES

**Mt 9:37-38** Then He \*said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. "Therefore, beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

## How Do We Best Position Ourselves For Growth? (cont)

† Prepare for growth through discipleship

- Are we able to handle tough cases (i.e., addictions, immorality)?
- Growth often comes after pruning

**John 15:2**

### NOTES

**John 15:2** "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit."

Pruning involves removing faults from individuals, NOT necessarily removing individuals from the fellowship.

We can remove unrepentant sinners (**1Cor 5:1-13**) from the congregation to protect the sheep BUT per John 15:2, it is God's responsibility to prune/remove any specific individuals who do not bear fruit (cf 1Cor 11:30). We need to properly discern each situation.

## Other Biblical Considerations

- † Churches in Revelation
- † Basis of Growth
- † Promised Church Growth
- † Discipleship
- † Leaders lead justly and righteously  
("...they are the sunrise or refreshing rain that promotes growth...")  
**2Samuel 23:3-5**

### NOTES

#### Churches in Revelations

- † Some churches in Revelation were noted for severe problems such as being dead (**Sardis**); lacking love (**Ephesus**), holding to false doctrines (**Pergamum**); tolerating immorality (**Thyatira**), and having wealth but no zeal (**Laodicea**)
- † Yet, Christ acknowledged them as His Church, and He applauded the true believers who were in them for hanging tough and remaining faithful – So, we do not have to be perfect!
- † BUT if we do not fix things God can remove our candlestick

**Basis of Growth.** God promised to bless & multiply Israel (as the sand & stars) – **If they would obey** (**Deut 28:1-14; Jer 33:22**); but would scatter & diminish them if not obedient (Deut 28:15-68)

**Promised Church Growth.** The Kingdom of Heaven (believers) is depicted as mushrooming into something BIG as seen in parables of Good Seed, Leaven, and as a Mustard Seed (Matt 13:24-33)

**Discipleship.** Church growth could be exponential – especially for those who are faithful in small things, are diligent in their outreach, who feed and protect God's flock, who teach others how to teach, who avoid sin, and who teach the whole counsel of God

- † Hence the need to provide thorough discipleship training just to keep up with growth potential

- † ...and disciple future Pastor(s) [i.e., hire from within] or you will need at least 7 years to see growth from an outside Pastor

**Evangelism vs Repatriation.** Yes, we need to seek the lost, but we also need to seek the wayward who have left the church, unless they are divisive [Rom 16:17] or prodigal [Luke 15:11-20]

**AND PRAY BIG.** Let it be according to our faith (Matt 9:29)

## Do We Have Bad Shepherds?

### † What does God call Bad Shepherds

- Blind watchmen **Isaiah 56:10**
- Dumb Dogs **Isaiah 56:11**
- Evil **Jer 23:2**
- Jobless **Ezek 34:1-11**
- Worthless **Zech 11:17**

### NOTES

**Isaiah 56:10-11.** What does God call shepherds who lack knowledge? BLIND WATCHMEN and DUMB DOGS.

**Jer 10:21.** What does God call shepherds who have not grown their flock? STUPID. The shepherds have become stupid and have not sought/obeyed the LORD; Therefore, they have not prospered or grown, and all their flock is scattered

**Jer 23:2.** What does God call shepherds who drive sheep away? EVIL. God will judge their evil deeds for scattering His flock.

**Eze 34:1-11.** What does God call shepherds who don't care for the sheep? JOBLESS. You have not strengthened the sickly, you have not healed the diseased, you have not bound up the broken, you have not brought back the scattered, nor have you sought for the lost; but you have dominated them with force and severity (v4)...

[therefore], I will make you cease from feeding My sheep. (v10)

**Zech 11:17.** What does God call a shepherd who deserts His flock? WORTHLESS. Woe to the worthless shepherd who leaves.

## Do we have Bad Sheep?

† What does God call Bad Sheep?

- Evil

**Num 14:10, 35**

- A dead man

**Deut 17:12**

† God can remove good shepherds from wicked congregations

**Jer 22:22**

† God will judge bad shepherds and sheep

**Ezek 34:10, 21-22**

† Even God cannot lead stubborn cows

**Hosea 4:16**

### NOTES

**Num 14:10, 35.** What does God call a congregation who seek to remove their God-anointed leaders? **EVIL**  
**Deut 17:12.** What does God call someone who shows contempt & fails to listen to the priest or judge (i.e., the Shepherd)? **A DEAD MAN.**

**Jer 22:22.** God removes good shepherds from a wicked congregation.

**Ezek 34:10.** and God can remove bad shepherds from good congregations.

**Ezek 34:21-22.** God will judge sheep who bully others.

**Hoshea 4:16.** Even God cannot lead stubborn cows.

## Church Growth Seen in Acts

- † 3000 added **Acts 2:41**
- † The Lord added to the church daily **Acts 2:47**
- † 5000 men believed **Acts 4:4**
- † Multitudes of men & women **Acts 5:14**
- † Church grew after fixing a problem (caring for widows) **Acts 6:1-7**
- † The Lord was with them **Acts 9:31; 11:21**

### NOTES

**Acts 2:41** There were added to them about three thousand souls.

**Acts 2:47** ... the Lord added to the church daily

**Acts 4:4** But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand

**Acts 5:14** And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women

**Acts 6:1-7** The church addressed a problem (widows), and they grew

**Acts 9:31** Then the churches had rest/peace throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria and were edified; walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

**Acts 11:21** And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed and turned unto the Lord.

## Interesting Facts on Church Growth

### † Key Attributes

#### ▪ Spiritual Growth vs Physical Growth

### † How to measure growth

#### ▪ Quality vs Quantity

### † Key to Growth is First Time Guests

## NOTES

### **What are some key attributes of a healthy growing church?**

- ☐ Numerical and Financial Growth | ☐ Increase in Baptisms
- ☐ Growth in Programs | ☐ Increase in workers/contributors
- ☐ Spiritual Growth (How would you measure this?)
- ☐ See checklist of other key attributes (<https://rodoneil.com/wp-content/uploads/Church-Growth-Notes-2022g.pdf> )

### **There are two ways to measure the health of any organization:**

- **Quality.** Quality measures tend to be subjective. They rely on taste, perception, intuition, and anecdotal evidence.
- **Quantity.** Quantifiable measures tend to be more objective. They rely on statistics, which need to be interpreted, but they often convey a true and accurate story over time.

### **Key to Church Growth is First Time Guests:**

- † To maintain current size, churches need three (3) first-time guests each week for every hundred regular attenders
- † To grow, we need to average five (5) first-time guests per week
- † Therefore, a church with weekly attendance of 500, would need 15 guests each week to maintain, and at least 25 to grow  
(src: <https://www.pastormentor.com/healthy-church-18-numbers-will-tell/>)

## More Key Attributes

### † Percent of Adults in attendance

- Sunday AM services vs PM services
- Sunday School & mid-week services

### † Percentage of Givers

- Should we stress Giving?
- ...or should we stress Discipleship?

**Giving is a by-product of one's growing faith**

## NOTES

### **Another Critical Number – Percent of Adults in Small Groups:**

- † Healthy churches have at least 40-50% of their adult attendance in some form of Small Group, including Sunday School
- † Great churches have upwards of 80% of adults in Small Groups
- † The highest percentage seen is Rick Warren's Saddleback Church, which has 130% of their adult attendance in small groups. They have a lot of outsiders coming in for special studies, such as Celebrate Recovery (CR)

### **Another Critical Number – Percentage of Givers:**

- † Statistics show that less than 10% of Evangelicals tithe; and that's why average church giving reflects about 3% per family
- † Statistics also reveal the validity of Pareto's rule of 80/20. 80% of a church's income comes from 20% of the people, and 20% of the people do 80% of the work
- † One doesn't get closer to God by making a commitment to tithe or to give proportionately. Rather, a commitment to Tithe is an indication one HAS gotten closer to God [Ps 50:23; Acts 10]
- † Therefore, we do not need to stress giving as much as we need to emphasize spiritual growth through DISCIPLESHIP. Giving is a by-product of one's growing faith [Heb 11:6]

## Early Church Approach to Growth Acts 6

### † Know Your Audience & Priorities

- Expect Problems – then fix them
- Elder Priorities: Praying & Teaching

### † The Path of Least Resistance Kills

Prov 1:22-23

## NOTES

### Acts 6. Know Your Audience & Priorities + Pray + Fix Problems

To promote church growth and position ourselves and the church body to be blessed, we should always do things God's way.

- v1. Expect problems, "...when the number of the disciples was multiplied there arose a murmuring..."
- † Having problems/factions in a church is not always bad. We get to see Biblical principles put into action as God's "approved" ones rise to the occasion to fix the problems (**1Cor 11:19**)
- vv2-4. It is not right for Elders to neglect the ministry of the word of God...they must give attention to prayer and teaching of the word
- † Elder Priorities: Praying & Teaching. Why is praying and teaching God's word so critical to church health and growth? Not music format, not preaching style, not programs, not facilities, not giving, not even evangelism matters as much.
- † **Consider this.** Praying aligns us to God's will, and accurately conveying God's word both saves and matures the congregation to do the work of the ministry (**2Tim 3:15-16**)

**The Path of Least Resistance Kills.** We must address "big" issues that need immediate attention. If we let "big" issues linger and fester it kills church unity and church growth (**Prov 1:22-33**, "How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded? And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing And fools hate knowledge? Turn to my reproof, Behold, I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.")

## **Early Church Approach to Growth    Acts 20**

### **‡ Discipleship Promotes Growth**

- **Mature leaders groom others**
- **Must teach whole counsel of God**
- **No partiality**

### **NOTES**

#### **Acts 20. Discipleship Promotes Church Growth**

v18. Mature leaders groom younger leaders

vv19, 24. Paul served in all humility and tears. He deeply cared for God's church and gave them top priority over his own comfort.

v20. He did not shy away from teaching the whole counsel of God. He taught them in public and in private, in large and small groups, and he taught both the easy and the hard topics.

v21. There was no partiality. Salvation & sanctification were made available to every race, class, & gender.

## Early Church Approach to Growth

Eph 4

- ✝ We must evangelize & disciple
- ✝ Pastor longevity is crucial
- ✝ Hire from within

When we hire from outside, we do not know how to disciple people, ...and we harm other churches by stealing their staff

### NOTES

#### **Ephesians 4. Evangelize and Disciple**

HOW can we turn negative church growth around? To fulfill the Great Commission, churches (shepherds & sheep) must both Evangelize and Disciple. Consider the following:

- ✝ If all we hear each Sunday is a salvation message, then we will always have baby Christians sitting in the pews (**Heb 6:1-3**)
- ✝ If we have great Sunday School & Bible classes, but the sheep are not evangelizing co-workers, neighbors, family, & strangers, then we become an anemic church (Pastors can't do it all)

**Longevity is Critical.** Typical pastoral tenure is less than 5 years. Tenure is over 20 years for the 20 largest churches in the world.

**Hire Within.** If we do not groom leaders from within, then we will always be hiring strangers from the outside to lead us.

- ✝ Plus, it shows we do not know how to disciple people.
- ✝ ...and taking shepherds away from other churches creates a cycle of new shepherds herding unfamiliar sheep, which often causes internal challenges – making churches to have more of an inward focus till things settle down.
- ✝ Statistics show it typically takes 7-12 years to see sustained growth from a pastor hired from the outside

## Early Church Approach to Growth 1Tim 4

‡ **Emphasize TEACHING, not preaching to believers**

- Teaching involves 2-way dialog
- Teaching what?
  - ✓ Easy Stuff?
  - ✓ Basic Stuff?
  - ✓ ....or the whole counsel of God?

### NOTES

#### **1Timothy 4. Teaching Has Priority in a Church, Not Preaching**

Paul's emphasis was on TEACHING believers, Preaching to non-believers.

Teaching accommodates 2-way dialogue, not just a one-way monologue.

This is why Sunday School/Bible Study is so vital to church growth.

BUT teaching what? ☐ Easy doctrines? ☐ Basic doctrines?  
☐ Non-controversial doctrines? ☐ The whole counsel of God?

**Desired Results.** When shepherds and sheep begin doing what God expects (planting & watering/evangelizing & discipling), we can watch with amazement how God grows His Church whether we live in a time of peace & prosperity, or under persecution or COVID (**1Cor 3:7**)

## People Problems in the Church

† Per **Leviticus 4**, there are 4 types of people problems within the church

1. High Priest (aka, Sr. Pastor)
2. Congregation as a whole
3. Other leadership
4. Individual members

### NOTES

According to Leviticus 4, there are four (4) types of people problems within the church, and they are listed in the order of severity as seen with the types of sacrifices required to attain God's forgiveness and restoration:

1. High Priest (aka, Sr. Pastor) [If the pastor is the problem, any problems will have the most severe impact]
2. Congregation as a whole [If the congregation is unjustly grumbling, their impact is severe but not as bad as having a pastoral problem]
3. Other Leadership [e.g., the rest of the ministerial staff and deacons]
4. Individual members

## **CAUTION ON REMOVING PASTORS**

- † If pastors/elders have God's anointing, then God is responsible to remove/replace them – not us
- † Exercise extreme caution removing a pastor for bad performance or even for moral failure
  - ...else a church could reap God's wrath not for years but for decades

### **NOTES**

God's wrath would entail:

- Lack of blessing/growth
- Frequent/constant turmoil/turnover

Too many pastors are asked to leave for political reasons more than for scriptural reasons. IN FACT, there are no scriptural reasons for anointed elders to be asked to leave their appointed responsibilities, even for negative church growth or for flagrant sin!

## When to Remove a Church Elder?

† Nowhere in Scripture (OT or NT) do we see corrupt priests or church pastors/elders being removed from office or being asked to step down from their God-ordained positions ...with only one Exception

**1Kings 2:27; 1Sam 2:27-36**

### NOTES

**Removing a corrupt Priest or Pastor/Elder with God's anointing is God's responsibility.**

**SIDE NOTE: When is it Appropriate to Remove a Church Elder?**

Nowhere in Scripture (OT or NT) do we see corrupt priests or church elders being removed from office or being asked to step down from their God-ordained positions – EXCEPT when Solomon thrust out (KJV), expelled (ESV), banished (HCSB), dismissed (NASB), removed (NIV), deposed (NLT) Abiathar from being High Priest for siding with Adonijah as he sought to be King of Israel in lieu of Solomon – BUT Abiathar's dismissal was in fulfillment of a prophecy concerning Eli's household eventually being removed (**1Kings 2:27; 1Sam 2:27-36**)

**Considerations.** God never told Eli to remove his 2 wicked sons (Hophni & Phinehas) from the priesthood. These men were guilty of horrendous sins while in office, including open fornication/adultery, which God calls a "horrible thing" (**Hos 6:10**). Instead, God told Eli to rebuke his errant sons. When Eli failed to correct his boys and they failed to repent, then God slew them & pronounced a prophecy against the House of Eli (**1Sam 2-3**)

† Recall that priests were in a "perpetual priesthood" which meant they could not be removed from office except by death (**Ex 40:15**)

† God never challenged them to step down, but to step up

## NT Removal of Pastors/Elders

- † Likewise, in the NT, we see elders challenged to correct some bad behavior but never fired or asked to resign from their God-ordained positions. **Act 20:30; 1Tim 5:20; 3John 9-10**
- Again, is our church a business or a family?
- When a family removes the Dad, it is called a divorce – which God hates and there are always severe consequences

### NOTES

- † Jesus may have called the spiritual leaders of His day vipers and hypocrites (**Mat 3:7**), evil & adulterous (**Mat 12:39**), and fools & blind men (**Mat 23:17**), but He did not tell the people of His day to overthrow their spiritual leaders but to do what their leaders told them to do and not to follow their poor example (**Mat 23:3**)
- † Paul told the Ephesian elders to “be alert” for false teachers rising up from amongst themselves (**Act 20:30**)
- † Timothy (an Elder) was to rebuke bad elders publicly so others would be fearful of sinning. (How is this done) (**1Tim 5:20**)
- † John (the Apostle/Elder) said he would deal with Diotrephes personally, that is, Elder to Elder (**3John 9-10**)

## Addressing Pastor/Elder Issues

- † Charges of elder misbehavior should not be frivolous or taken lightly **1Tim 5:19**
- † Paul warned the Ephesian elders that “*savage wolves*” and “*men speaking perverse things*” to mislead the church would arise from among the elders themselves – so be warned **Acts 20:28-31**

### NOTES

## Addressing Pastor/Elder Issues (cont)

† Nowhere in the NT do you see Elders being removed or asked to step down, even in the corrupt churches noted in Revelation 2-3. Elders are challenged, YES, but not removed by men. **1Tim 5:20**

† Don't rush into ordaining people into leadership. Prove all things to avoid sin later. **1Tim 5:22**

### NOTES

**Consideration.** Yet, w/ all the problems churches may have, God is still in control, the gates of Hell have not & will not prevail against His Church. His word is going forth, people are still getting saved, BUT, oh, how churches could reap God's desired blessings, including exponential growth as a mustard seed, if they would only do things His way – Else we could get leanness to our soul (**Ps 106:15**)

Let's not be like the Corinthians who got reprimanded by Clement of Rome (A.D. 96) for deposing their elders, men who were appointed on apostolic authority & by common consent, and they were not to be regarded as dispensable (Expositor's Bible Commentary, p589).

## How Do Bad Pastors Get Selected?

Probably a church failed to follow Biblical principles in Elder selection

✚ They selected a Young Novice

**1Tim 3:6; Ecc 10:16**

✚ Selection committees are composed of nice people but not spiritually mature Elders

**1Tim 3 and Titus 1**

### NOTES

**So, what is a Church to do if it has a Bad Elder or 2?**

If an unrepentant sex offender can be tossed out of church

(**1Cor 5:1-13**), why can't a sinful or unrepentant Elder?

✚ Again, it revolves around the anointing/appointing, which God takes very seriously (**1Tim 5:19-20**)

✚ As seen in **1Cor 5:1-13**, the Church is responsible to break fellowship and remove unrepentant sinners, but God removes wayward Elders. We can challenge, but we should not usurp God's authority since His callings are irrevocable (**Romans 11:29**)

Other more pertinent questions to ask are: "How did a bad elder, a wolf, get into that position to begin with"? What biblical principles were violated in selecting him? Was he on the young/inexperience side [don't pick a novice (**1Tim 3:6**), and a young ruler is death to a nation (**Ecc 10:16**)]? Was he approved/selected by other elders or by a committee of nice people who don't have the elder wisdom needed to know what to look for in a good elder besides the criteria listed in Titus & 1Timothy? They need to know & consider the whole counsel of God.

**An Ugly Consideration.** God has the option to remove good elder(s)/ shepherd(s) and allow bad ones to come into a church because of faithless behavior by His people (cf. **Jer 3:14-15**)

## **Biblical Elder Selection Process**

- † Initially, Pastors/Elders were selected by Apostles or by Apostolic emissaries such as Timothy & Titus
- † Then Elder selection process would be self-perpetuating: Elders selecting Elders within their respective church
- † Most SBC congregational-ruled churches relax this stipulation

### **Should Privates Select Their Next General?**

#### **NOTES**

##### **ELDER SELECTION PROCESS:**

- Originally, Elders were selected by Apostles or by Apostolic emissaries such as Timothy and Titus, and they were selected from within the current church body of believers. They were not brought in from the outside, because elders had to know their sheep.
- Then the Elder selection process would be self-perpetuating by qualified Elders selecting other qualified Elders from within the church body...assuming churches groomed/disciplined their people effectively.
- Congregational-ruled churches (most SBC's) relax this stipulation. The danger from this is "Privates then select their next General." Throughout Scripture, Generals always pick Generals: Moses picked Joshua; Apostles selected Elders; then Elders would select Elders.

## Anointing / Appointing Process

† Do High Priest anointings or Saul's anointing as an OT King of Israel transfer to the position of a church Elder today?

† YOU BE THE JUDGE:

- A church Elder is a God-appointed position **Eph 4:11**
- God's callings are irrevocable

**Romans 11:29**

### NOTES

#### **A lesson from Saul & David on removing God's anointed servant**

King Saul was not a man after God's own heart. He did things his own way or he heeded to the cries of the people instead of God's Word

David had several opportunities to remove Saul from office, but his position was "it is not up to me to remove God's anointed"

† **1Sam 24:6, 10, 12.** I will not put my hand on God's anointed

† **1Sam 24:13.** As the ancient proverb says, the wicked produces wickedness, but my hand shall not be against you

† **1Sam 26:9-10.** No one can raise his hand against the Lord's anointed and be guiltless. Let the Lord remove Him.

## **One Final Consideration**

† **The “Modern” Gospel May Be Killing the Church**

- **If we only preach/teach salvation, we will only have baby Christians in the pews**

**We have turned what was once a strength (preaching the Gospel) into a weakness**

### **NOTES**

## Consider What John the Baptist Did Not Say

- † HE DID NOT SAY, “Just keep coming back to the river and I’ll keep sharing the same Gospel message with you, and I’ll use a different verse each time.”
- † Rather, JTB told the soldiers, tax collectors, and others applicable principles to live by when they asked him, “How shall we now live?” **Lk 3:10-14**

**If we want to grow churches, we need to disciple our people beyond John 3:16**

### NOTES

John the Baptist gave the growing crowds of believers very applicable principles to live by beginning with STOP doing wrong by mistreating people & START doing right by serving others.

## **Summarized Key Growth Principles**

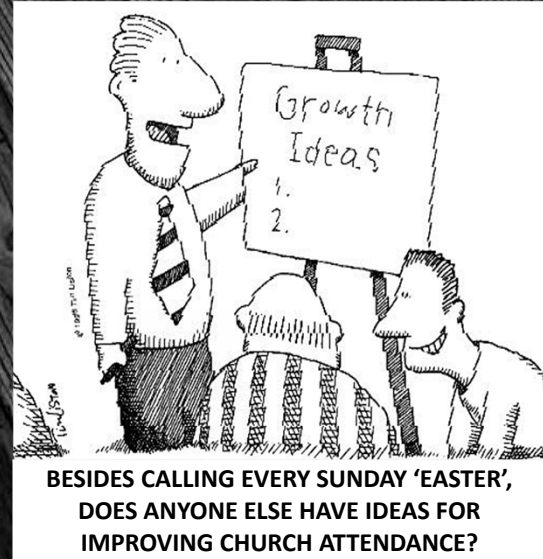
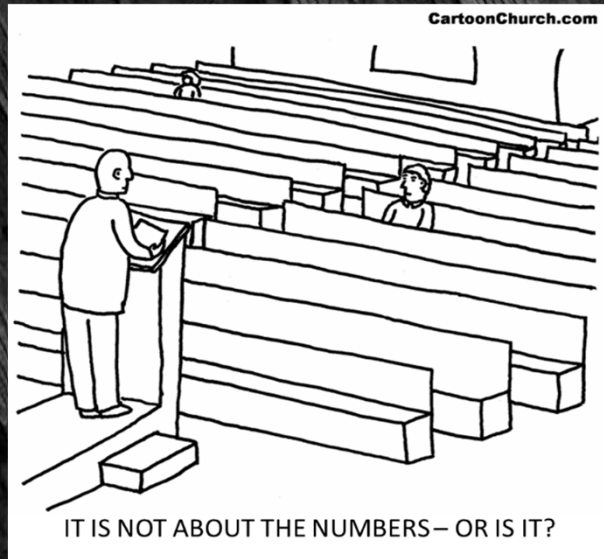
- 1. Fix what is broken**
- 2. Strengthen what is working**
- 3. Teach the whole counsel of God**
- 4. Do all things with love and prayer**

### **NOTES**

For more details on Church Growth Principles, pull down the following file:

<https://rodoneil.com/wp-content/uploads/Church-Growth-Notes-2022g.pdf>

## ...on the lighter side



## NOTES



## NOTES