August 2017

A Work Of Christ's Church Is To Grow

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Recommended Citation
A WORK OF CHRIST'S CHURCH IS TO GROW
Ephesians 4:14-16

I. Cite all the responsibilities the church has, you cannot omit the need to grow externally & internally.
A. Burton Coffman told me of a preacher promised $100.00 for a wedding ceremony but $1.00 to be deducted for each word.
   One word to describe
   "Take her?" Church's duty? Love?
   "Take him?" Magnify? Honor?
   "Took" - You owe me $95.00.

1. May I pointedly say our work is to grow
II. Two necessities for growth
A. Truth
   1. But some don’t want you to have it.
   2. Don’t be as children
      (a) Some good qualities
      (b) Also some bad
I Cor. 14:20 "Brethren be not children in
   (1) Immature
   (2) Ignorant
   (3) Weak
   (4) Unsteady
   (5) Tossed & whirled
   (6) Fickle
      (a) Today one church gets something everybody else’s got to have one--from signs to children’s homes!
(7) Imitators
(8) Changeable
(9) Credulous
(10) Easily influenced
   (a) Ours seems to be age of instability
   (b) No helm, no settled course
(11) A man has respectable standing

3. False teachers willfully deceive!
   (a) Sleight of men
   (1) Like crooked gamblers c loaded dice
   (2) Same number is dependable
   (3) Opponents can't win in a rigged game
   (b) Cunning craftiness
   (1) Skillfully using various means to deceive
   (2) Some are true to nothing but the love of change

4. Truth the essential
   (a) Whole system of gospel
   (b) Fidelity to truth is the backbone of whole Christian ministry
   (c) Nothing more determinate as our failure to see what's essential
   (d) None useful w/o settled convictions

5. It must be spoken in love, 2 essentials
   (a) Literally it's "truthing it"
   (b) Job of church to preach & declare truth
(c) Implies not only speaking truth but being true.
(1) Girl in Stamford, Conn. left church because "You say one thing & do another. It's just a bunch of hypocrites!"  
(2) "If the light's in you", etc.
(d) Must be spoken & lived in love
(1) Must be preached in such a way all members love & grow
(2) Love is the element of spiritual progress
(3) "The church has truth for its nourishment, love for its atmosphere & Christ for its head."
6. Thus, two essentials (1) truth (2) spoken in love.
III. Fed by this stream we:
A. Grow up into Him—
1. This is the whole man
2. Body derives its vital substance from Christ. More & more we become like Christ!
3. A healthy church is constantly growing stronger. It grows in all things.
4. Our work is constructive; not destructive
5. Daily we become more Christlike
B. Whole body is fitly joined together
1. Whole body arranged for growth & vigor.
2. Joined = sewed, properly arranged
   (a) Like music - it's sweet harmony
   (b) Each part affords mutual aid.
   (c) 
C. Compacted by that which every joint supplies - firm consolidation.

1. MacKnight "Human body is formed by union of all the members to each other, under the head, and by the fitness of each member for its own office & place in the body. Each part bears a sympathy to the whole. In church we must each reach maturity by the proper exercise of the gifts & graces of individuals for the benefit of the whole."

2. Joint = that which unites or fastens together different parts of the frame
   (a) Joint in lumber
   (b) Each part contributes to the production of the whole.


D. Effectual working in the measure of every part

1. Each does his part:
   (a) One Mary gave birth
   (b) Another wrapped corpse in spec
   (c) Snuffers & trays are as essential as lamp stands
2. Each works according to measure of his strength
E. Maketh increase...Edifying
1. Church growth demands
   (a) Loving exhibition of truth
   (b) Every part vitally connected c Christ
   (c) Healthy action of every member
2. It's done in love
   (a) No jar or collision with another part
IV. What does this say to us?
A. We mutually grow as we are provided by Christ & by brethren
   1. Any forgotten part atrophies
   2. If everyone does his part, it harmoniously grows
B. No one can be idle
   1. Nothing is useless - every nerve is for something
      (a) Can't prick skin w/o bleeding from multiple vessels
      (b) Can't insert needle w/o you feeling it somewhere?
   2. Every member is vital to the growth of church - else why worry about 1 out of 99
   3. I can't be idle any more than my nerve can be?
      (a) What if one quit?
      (b) If you stop, you hurt health of church.
C. One one's growth dwarfs another's
1. Hand doesn't grow at expense of foot
2. Thus, there can be no proxy work - a universal need & experience
3. Everyone contributes something to the good of the whole

D. No one is overtaxed
1. Asks nothing of any part but what it's able to do
2. None are overtaxed
3. None consider his possessions his private property - he shares c the whole.

E. We should help one another. Church is
1. knit together by its divine organization
2. Sustained by supply from head
3. Grows as a whole & builds itself in love.
4. As part is rightly placed, mutually related, with deficiency or redundancy

West End 3-9-69, 3-23-69
Glasgow, Ky. Columbia Ave. Church Lectureship
9-16-69
Some 5th graders were talking about the moon. Lucy declared: The moon is twice as important as the sun because it gives us light when we need it—at night. The sun’s with us in the daytime when we don’t need it.” — EDNA ELSASER, Instructor, 1-69.
No one has a right to live in idleness and expect to live long and be happy. The ship anchored in the harbor rots faster than the ship crossing the ocean; a still pond of water stagnates more rapidly than a running stream. Our unused minds are subject to atrophy much more rapidly than those in use. The unused cells in our brains deteriorate much faster than those which are continuously exercised. Hence, to remain young we must remain active. – AMERICAN SALESMAN, 8-68.
Sen Eugene J. McCarthy (D-Minn), was asked if he was trying to split the Democratic Party. His reply: "Have you ever tried to split sawdust."
A lady walked out of the store and saw a driverless car rolling down the street. Thinking quickly, she opened the door, slid behind the wheel, and pulled up the emergency brake with a tug. Stepping out quite pleased with herself she said to a man walking up, "Well, I stopped it," she beamed. "Yeah, I know," he said, "I WAS PUSHING IT."

MORAL: When you see the program of the church moving forward, don't stop it! It discourages those who push! Help push yourself! Be willing to cooperate, give, attend to push the cause of Christ!

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