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The Weakness of The Church

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THE WEAKNESS OF THE CHURCH*Ephesians 1:19-23*

INT: Many are prone to overrate the church. Expect too much. As bad mistake as underrating it. Expecting too little. Church defined: Humans call out of the sins of the world. Lesson: How church can be weak and continue to grow. Does

I. WEAKNESS OF THE CHURCH NOT IN IT'S FOUNDATION.

- A. Idea originated in the mind of God. Gal. 1:4.
- B. Jesus descended to lay the foundation. I Cor. 3:11.
- C. Apostles put into responsible positions. Eph. 2:20.
- D. Elders had miraculous help at first. A.8:18. I T.4:14.
- E. Miracles ceased when signs no longer needed. I C.13:10
- F. Church does not need miracles to grow today. Jas.1:25.

II. WEAKNESS OF THE CHURCH IS NOT IN IT'S ORGANIZATION.

- A. Evangelists to announce good news. II Tim. 4:1-3.
- B. Shepherds to strain spiritual food. Titus 1:9.
- C. Deacons serve in any capacity needed. I Tim. 3:10.
- D. Teachers share opportunities for service. Eph. 4:11.
- E. All members are emissarys for Christ. Matt. 28:19-20.
- F. Enough organization to do all God orders to be done.

III. WEAKNESS OF THE CHURCH IS NOT IN ITS DIVINE PROGRAM.

- A. Law governing the church is perfect. Matt. 22:37-39.
- B. Mission of the church includes all men. Mk. 16:15-16.
- C. Heart of the church is great big. Jas. 1:27. Gal.6:10.
- D. Responsibility of church is grave. Jas. 4:17.
- E. Future of the church is sure. I Cor. 15:24.

IV. WEAKNESS IN ADMINISTRATION AND APPLICATION BY HUMANS.

- GROWING PAINS.*
- A. All Christians are struggling at best. Who is perfect?
 - B. True Christians simply do their best. Phil. 2:12.
 - C. Weakness in Church is in it's struggling members.
 1. Inconsistencies of the leadership are glaring.
 - a. J. L. Hines, so bitter, victim of same fate.
 - b. H. T. Green, elder, cruel in finance business.
 2. Indifference in the membership is very harmful.
 - a. "Help us at this weak church". No time! Interest
 3. Irreverant worship services turn men away.
 - a. Real sermon is in the pew, not the pulpit. See it
 4. Hobbling work program detrimental to progress.
 - a. Why are welfare agencies taking over? Our work!
 - D. Conclusion: Weakness not in God's provisons, but in man's limited wisdom, enthusiasm and love for man.

INV: Close with a few timely and appropriate questions.

1. Do I lose desire to be Christian because some of

- God's children misbehave? Should not. Should make us want to help compensate for this weakness.
2. Think less of the church because some members are failures? Should not. May think less of failure.
 3. Can I be saved in disobedience because some members are being lost in sin? No! Both lost.
 4. Would behaviour of members matter if I truly loved God and appreciated Christ's sacrifice?

B-R-C-B

R-P.