

What Will Make The Church Grow?

by Wayne Goff

Church growth is always a concern for every local congregation, and as we continue to come up out of the pandemic, we should consider the things necessary for the church to grow.

Church growth is not the same as **church swelling**! By “church swelling” I mean members moving from one congregation to another due to various reasons. The receiving church may increase their attendance, but this is not really growth.

Church growth requires at least five things: (1) strong leadership; (2) brethren at peace with one another; (3) each member participating; (4) sound preaching; and (5) a good location. These ingredients caused this church to grow to about 150 in the past, and the same ingredients can repeat this experience.

Acts 2 shows the same four things in the text about the first church in Jerusalem: (1) Strong leadership – apostles (**2:14, 42**); (2) Brethren at peace with one another (**2:44-45**); (3) each member participating (**2:41-43**); (4) sound preaching (**2:14-36**); (5) a good location (**2:46**).

Man-made churches try various unscriptural “programs” to promote numerical growth. Providing food, recreation, entertainment, day care, health programs, counseling, financial success classes, car repair services, contemporary and/or traditional worship, and even sometimes a “mall-like” experience with stores, coffee shops, etc. These things will definitely appeal to the ones looking to satisfy self while soothing their conscience with religion, but it is neither biblical nor acceptable to God! “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but **he who does the will of My Father in heaven**”(**Matthew 7:21**).

When every disciple proclaims Jesus Christ as “**Lord**” of his life (**Rom. 13:14**), then he commits himself to following Jesus’ teaching and transformation (**Rom. 12:1**). One changes from an earthly, materialistic, self-centered person to a spiritual, heavenly, Christ-centered person who loves God with all his heart and who loves his neighbor as himself.

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