

## **Growing: The Church**

1 Corinthians 3.5-9, *Eph 2.4-10 ctw*

I spent a few afternoons looking at Church growth methods, resources and publications. There are 1000s of them. “Learn how to attract and bring in more new members to your church to glorify God.” Right now, one book I am reading, is on the very topic. The Simple Church. It’s a different approach. Instead of how to fill the pews, it focuses on what the church does away from the church, and then from those works, how to mature them. Brings up the question: How does the church grow? 3 elements are needed:

### **1. Diversity of Ministry**

- a. The Corinthians were pitting preachers against each other.
- b. Preachers are not in competition, trying to outshine previous or other churches. Workers are not competing. Whatever our job, we are equals. Takes all of us.
- c. There are different approaches to spreading the Gospel. Some utilize door-door witnessing, some utilize representing the church in public forums, such as community action groups, or city meetings, others engage in encouragement.

### **2. Unity of Purpose**

- a. Once we accept the different means of spreading the Gospel, we embrace it. Our Joy Box ministry, our Missions Giving, Truck Stop ministry, all of these are to spread the Gospel.
- b. Make sure it’s the right purpose: Purpose to fill the seats has 1 of 2 results: Toss the Gospel or close the doors.
- c. We need to be out there Monday thru Saturday ministering God’s Love to hurting and dying world.

### **3. Humility of Spirit – This is our attitude.**

- a. Who are we? God’s tools to spread his Love.
- b. Can the church survive without me or you? With our eyes on God, you bet!

All of this? 3 points, are watering and tending. These elements are the good works we read in Ephesians at the beginning of worship. Remember, “good,” is old English for “Godly”, so we are prepared to do “godly works” for God. CLOSING THOUGHT: If we are faithfully tending the harvest field, as Jesus called the world in John 4.35, the God is faithful and He will take care of the rest. He does want us to grow, but only because we are spreading His Good news full of his love and grace. Are you full of his love and grace? If not: come.