

THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH – GOD’S WAY

I. THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH — GOD’S WAY (Ephesians 4:7-16)

A. The PRINCIPLES

1. Church growth begins with _____ and God’s _____.
(4:7)

2. Church growth involves Jesus Christ giving _____
of His _____ to His Church. (4:8-11)

* Which ones are specifically mentioned?

3. Church growth requires that the gifted communicators of God’s truth concentrate on the
_____ of the saints via sound doctrine. (4:12a)

* What does “equipping” mean? Why is this needed?

* What is the primary role of the pastor-teacher?

4. Church growth necessitates that the equipped saints _____ the _____ of
_____. (4:12b)

* Warren Wiersbe’s definition of ministry:

“Ministry takes place when divine resources meet human needs
through loving channels to the glory of God.”

* What are the imbalances to this?

5. Church growth is to result in the church being built up qualitatively through
_____ and normally quantitatively through _____.
(4:12c)

* How does ministry to the saved show itself? To the unsaved?

* How long of a process does this involve?

6. Church growth manifests itself with reaching such spiritual objectives as...
- corporate doctrinal _____ and the personal _____ of Jesus Christ (4:13a)
 - complete spiritual _____. (4:13b)
 - full _____. (4:13c)
 - spiritual _____ and _____. (4:14)

7. Church growth has as its primary means speaking the _____. (4:15a)

* What does this mean over the pulpit and in personal relationships within the Body?

* How about in evangelism?

* In what areas is this to affect us?

8. Church growth has as its ultimate Authority and Resource the _____. (4:15b-16)

* Why is this crucial to remember?

* Does God expect one individual to do it all?

B. THE PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- Church leaders* must be diligent students of God's Word, and the congregation must _____ the pastor's commitment to expository preaching and _____ this priority.
- Believers* must _____ to get equipped if they are to do the work of the ministry.
- The person who is *qualified* for a particular ministry is one who is _____, _____ and _____ as well as growing and gifted in that area.
- The key to the *horizontal* (ministry to others) is the _____ (your fellowship with the Lord).
- The *goal* in equipping the saints is not to get people busy, but to let God _____ to minister as needs arise and the Lord opens doors.
- The *objective* of church growth is the _____ of the church and the _____ of Jesus Christ. We seek to measure any potential ministry or ministry change by these objectives.