

People Needed in the Church

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Looking at commercials on television and advertisements online, the way to being desirable lies in outer beauty, attractive clothing, and certain aromas. The Bible itself paints a picture of the kind of people God desires. These are the ones needed badly in the church today.

The church is in need of workers. There are many around who do not know God and do not understand anything about His word or His church. Many long faithful workers are going onto their rewards, as will more as the years go by. Each time, there are individuals needed so that the church might continue to grow. When you look at Stephen in Acts 7. He was a faithful servant of God and strove to serve Him fully, as is evident in his speech. When he died, however, the work did not cease. Many were scattered due to persecution, yet they went everywhere teaching the Word.

Firstly, those needed in the church are those who hold fast to faith in Jesus Christ. John 1:1-3, 14 give us a plain message. The eternal Word became flesh and dwelt among men. This is the same message taught by the apostles and disciples. Unfortunately, not all who claim to be Christians hold to this simple faith. (1 John 2:18-19). We are warned also in 1 John 2 that we are in danger if we leave this foundation. Those who bring this teaching and hold to the faith in Jesus are desirable and needed, while those who reject it ought to also be rejected by us.

Secondly, the church needs those who live a life consistent with the gospel. Galatians 5:22-25 show us the fruit of the Spirit. These are manifested in one who lives a life led by the Word. Paul again described this type of life in Colossians 3:12-17. Christians must forsake their old lives where sin reigned for the new life in Jesus Christ. (Notice 1 Corinthians 6:9-11). Those who do not live according to the word of God have turned back to their former self. Such are to be avoided by the faithful as we are not to condone that behavior. (1 Corinthians 5:11-13)

Thirdly, those who are needed in the church are those whose allegiance is solely with Christ. Brethren, we are Christians. We are not belonging to sect started by Alexander Campbell. We do not make allegiance with certain preachers because they are our leaders, we make allegiance to Christ. We can value certain preachers for their teaching style, knowledge, advice, etc. It becomes a problem when we become followers of that individual instead of followers of Christ. Likewise, some are only interested in following themselves and letting themselves lead. (Phil. 3:17-21) We need to peacefully serve God wholly devoted to Him.

Fourthly, those needed in the church today are those who are “sound on issues”. These are those who have healthy knowledge of the Word and allow it to speak instead of their own views and opinions. When we allow our own opinions in, they are clouded by outside factors. We sometimes want the Word to change so that it does not contradict family, friends, and maybe even ourselves. Paul was fearful of what he would find among the Corinthians as strife occurs when opinions are law. (2 Cor. 12:20). Paul described it to Timothy as “bad fruit” that comes from improper attitudes. (1 Tim. 6:3-5). Healthy Christians are not factious. They simply believe what the Word says on matters of doctrine.

Finally, those need in the church are those who labor diligently. They not only are active in working for the Lord our in the fields, they are working to assist their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Every person has a role, and each must participate. These aren't the ones who think someone else is going to do it, why should I? These are the ones who see a need and fulfill it. Paul commends such brethren to the Romans: Phoebe, Priscilla & Aquila, Mary, Tryphena, Tryphosa, Peris. (Romans 16:1-12). Paul and his companions set this type of example and their teaching matched their behavior. (Ref. 2 Thessalonians Chapters 1 & 3). Those who refuse to do their part are to be rejected and considered undesirable. (2 Thess. 3:6-16)

There are many positive outlooks on brethren that make up the Lord's church. Not everyone is able to do all the work, and the work should not rest on the shoulders of one or two individuals. Incidentally, we also see those who are not fulfilling their work. Where would we personally fall in these two categories? —**CW**