

Congregational Goals

- “If you don’t know where you’re going, you’ll probably end up somewhere else”
- Everyone / every church needs clear goals to thrive

- Ph.3¹⁴, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus
 - ‘Goal’ – ‘what I seek to achieve,’ or ‘what I wish to accomplish’ – L-N
 - NASB: 4x
- 1 Tim.1⁵, But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith

Parents' goals for children

- Physical health, nourishment, protection; spiritual training; education; social skills; etc.
- How do they reach a long term goal? By consistently pursuing short term goals.

Churches have goals

Church A: grows to 300 . . . 600 . . . 2000
because of compromise.

Church B: remains small, despite teaching efforts, and lose people because they take unpopular stands on modesty, emphasize obedience to NT instead of social programs...

- Corinth, 1 Co.5: neglected withdrawing until Paul wrote, demanding it.
- Which church met its goals? Both!
- Which church met Scriptural goals? Rv.2 ,3

I. Nine Collective Goals

Assemble

- 1 Co.1:2, To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours
 - In Athens: political assemblies. Ac.7:38
 - In NT: usually of assemblies of God's people
- 1 Co.14:23, therefore if the whole church comes together in one place . . .

Teach / Preach

- 1 Co.1:18, For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God ... 21, For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe
 - Encouraging men to preach, and . . .
 - Men / women to teach . . .
 - Encourages spiritual growth

Teach / Preach

- 1 Co.4:17 For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church
 - Thread runs throughout epistle
 - Paul wants each congregation to hold truth (5:8)
 - How is this possible?
 - Common thread in his admonition is teaching

Teach / Preach

- 1 Co.14:26 How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching . . .
 - Books teach parents to monitor child's progress for his grade level
 - It usually begins and continues in the family

Teach / Preach

- 1 Co.15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you— unless you believed in vain
 - The other part of teaching is *receiving*
 - *Conditional*: If you hold fast that word which I preached to you
 - Pitcher – catcher

Lord's supper

- 1 Co.11:22, What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you
- 1 Co.11:23, For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you...
 - Their conduct contradicts command from Lord to Paul to Corinth
 - Whatever their goal was, they missed it

Prayer

- 1 Co.14:15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding
 - Young men learn to lead...
 - Prayer itself is a blessing
 - Prayer also helps prepare us for other things

Singing

- 1 Co.14:15, What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding
 - With spirit, understanding

Giving

- 1 Co.16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:
 - 2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come
- After encouragement to labor faithfully (15:58)
- Give in love (13:3)

Benevolence

- 1 Co.16:3 And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem. 4 But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me
 - For destitute saints

Discipline

- 1 Co.5
 - For ungodly members
 - 1 Co.5 . . . explains rod (4:21)

Preach gospel

- 1 Co.9:16, For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! ... 18 What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel

Preach gospel

- 1 Co.9:16, 18
 - Does Paul have an obligation that we do not have?
 - Includes . . .
 - Assemblies
 - Gospel meetings
 - Print
 - Web
 - Personal evangelism
 - Training preachers, 2 Tim.2:2

I. Nine Collective Goals

II. Church Reaches Goals
as Christians Reach Goals

Mt.5:48

- Future used as imperative: *you must be*
 - “You will clean up this mess!”
 - Seems impossible...
 - “The aim of Christians” - (A)
 - Fully developed; mature
 - Hb.5:14, of full age; ‘*full-grown men*’ (ASV); *mature* (ESV; NASB)

Mt.19:21

- Same word of RYR
 - If he keeps 9 of 10 commandments...not perfect (complete)
 - Cake recipe
 - Christian does everything except love His enemies...

Ep.4:11-13

- God gives gifts to His church to *perfect* the saints (*complete*)
 - Of mending fishing nets, setting broken bones, restoring Christians (Ga.6:1)
 - Apostles. Lk.16:27-31
 - Prophets. 1 Co.12:28
 - Evangelists. Ac.21:8; 2 Tim.4:5
 - Pastors. Ps.23. 1 Sm.17
 - Teachers. 1 Co.12:28

Col.1:28

- *Complete* here: full perfection (salvation in heaven)
 - Col.4:12, *perfect*: here of present maturity
 - In fellowship with Him, derived from Him, consists in likeness to Him

Ph.3:12

- Lord 'grabbed' him for a purpose
 - Then he 'laid hold' of Lord's will
 - Paul was not already perfected [goal: salvation in heaven]
 - Paul's struggle with sin, fear, doubt was not over
 - 15: *mature* – full-aged, as opposed to a child

Ph.3:14, heaven

- “You must have long range goals to keep you from being frustrated by short-term failures” – Noble
- “Journey of 1000 miles begins with the first step.”
 - Eric Sevareid – principle of the ‘next mile’
 - Young mothers must use ‘next mile’ principle
 - Churches must use ‘next mile’ principle.
Ga.6:9

- Col.1:6 (gospel) which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth... 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.
- army – team – church