

# A Strong Church

Every Christian must be  
interested in strength

Every Christian must be  
part of a local congregation

- 1 Co.11 – five times, *come together*; one time, *as a church*
- Hb.10:25, do not forsake *assembling*

# No church is problem free

- Where there are people...there will be problems.
- Strong church is composed of strong people.
- There is no other way.

# I. Things Not Needed For A Strong Church

## A. Large numbers

- What is large?
  - Ac.2:41 . . . 4:4
- Some tend to trust numbers
  - 2 Sm.24
  - Ro.11:4
- God's faithful are always outnumbered
  - Jg.7:2
  - Mt.7:13-14

**Danger: many seek numbers, ignore God's plan**

## B. Wealth, material riches

- How much is necessary?
- Mt.19:24-25
- Rv.3:17; 2:9
- Early church did not focus on converting the wealthy.
  - Mk.12:41-44

## C. Magnificent buildings

- How large?
- A building is authorized. Hb.10:25
  - Early churches may have owned a building
  - Ac.20:7-8; Ja.2:2
- They never depended on buildings to grow strong or to attract people
- Typical attitude: the more expensive, the better. Mk.13:1
- Solomon: largest building project in Israel's history . . .

## D. Popular preachers

- “Popular” preacher doesn’t imply strong congregation: Ac.28:22
- Some think preacher’s duty is social work.  
1 Tim.4:16
- Revised version: ‘Take heed to dinners, social occasions, parties, and get-togethers; continue in them...for in doing this you will strengthen the church and keep your job’



## E. Organization of societies

- 1849: UCMS
  - Missionary Society never strengthened a church; it drained strength –
    - Took its money
    - Oversaw its work
    - Made members think they were great just by contributing
  - Ph.1:1

## F. Social programs

- Makes people feel good...but so does a ball game

I. Things Not Needed For A Strong Church

II. Some Things Are Essential  
To A Strong Church

# Studious – focus on the Word

- Ho.4:6
- Mt.28:20
- 1 Tim.4:6

We cannot develop right character if ignorant of God's word

We cannot do a work unless we know what the Lord wants

# Devoted to duties: takes them seriously

Mt.6:33

Many view the church as optional: come if they want to; stay away if something else attracts them

We owe local church certain responsibilities

- Team
- Army
- School
- Job
- Church??

# United: mixture of love and kindness

Ac.4:32, Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul...

2 Co.13:11, Finally, brethren, farewell.

Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

## Loving: Jn.13:34-35

1 Co.11:18, no clics: 'For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it'

1 Co.13, without love . . .

- I produce nothing of value, 1
- I am of no value, 2
- I gain nothing of value, 3
- Gal.5:13

## Working: Gal.5:6

1. Many things can destroy a church. Death; false teachers; persecution, etc., but indifference by itself is enough.

2. Ps.110<sup>3</sup> Your people shall be volunteers In the day of Your power...

Some Christians are always ready for a good work; gladly spend their time, money, energy to serve.

3. Zeal, Tit.2:14

4. Work is for everyone – not just a few



# Communication

- Some hurt but don't let others know . . .
- Then blame them for not coming to their aid
- Col.4:6, Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one

# Holy living

- Eph.1:4, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love
- 1 Pt.1:15, but as He Who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct

Strength comes from courage . . . .

Courage comes from God

“Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear” – James Neil Hollingworth

David, 1 Sm.17