

# A Church with Purpose

## *Lesson 6- Principles for Church Growth*

### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our final study in this series. Today we will examine scriptural principles of church growth. It is important that we understand God's purpose, direction, and principles to build a healthy church. Specifically, we are going to examine five key pillars upon which every church should build its ministries.

### BIBLE STUDY

I. The primary principle of church growth, from which all others flow, is focusing your energy on evangelism. Read Luke 9:57-62. What point was Jesus trying to make about the importance of proclaiming the Word of God?

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Read Ephesians 2:10. What does this scripture tell us about why we were created?

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Read Philemon 6 and 2 Timothy 1:8. What good work are we called to do for Christ?

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Read Romans 8:17. If we share in suffering for the gospel, what will we share in with Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

II. God will bless the church that shares the gospel of Christ. But beyond simply proclaiming his message, a growing church must be committed to the discipleship of those who join the faith.

Read Matthew 28:19-20. We have visited the Great Commission several times in this study. What does verse 20 tell us we should do after winning someone to Christ?

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Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11. What is our responsibility to each other in the body of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

Read 1 Peter 1:2-5. What did Peter desire for those who were not spiritually mature?

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Read Galatians 6:1-2. What responsibilities do the spiritually mature have to those who are not mature in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

Read 2 Peter 1:5-11. What does discipleship involve and why is it important?

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III. A church must be committed to discipleship to grow. But more than that, it must be dedicated to bringing those who are committed to Christ into active ministry. It must develop leaders for service. Read 1 Timothy 4:14 and 2 Timothy 1:6. What was imparted to Timothy, how did it happen, and what was he called to do with it? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read Revelation 5:9-10. What were we made to be when we were redeemed by Jesus blood? \_\_\_\_\_

Read 1 Peter 2:16. It is clear from scripture that we are to be more than followers of Christ- we are called as servants in the work of Christ. And as his servants, we are called to impart gifts of service to others.

IV. The first three principles have to do with the process of bringing someone from a lost state to dedication to the cause of Christ. At this point, the church has the responsibility to keep each other in the faith through fellowship.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Galatians 6:2, and 1 John 1:6-7. What are the purposes of the fellowship of the body? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Hebrews 10:25. How important is the fellowship of the body and why? \_\_\_\_\_

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V. From salvation, to discipleship, to service, to fellowship, we are responsible to bring others to faith and keep each other strong. Our final responsibility is God-ward: to give Him our worship. Read Hebrews 12:28 and 13:15. What are we commanded to do and why do you think it's important? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read 2 Corinthians 9:13. What is the importance of living a Godly lifestyle and serving him in regard to worship? \_\_\_\_\_

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Reads Romans 12:1. What is the greatest act of worship? \_\_\_\_\_

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### CONCLUSION

Read Ephesians 4:11-13. As a church, we must become mature; everything we do must be according to the purposes and plans of God. As we find in the scripture, our church must be committed to evangelism of the lost, discipleship of the new believer, development of leaders for service, the fellowship of the saints, and the worship of God. As we fulfill these purposes, we will be a healthy church. As we become healthy, we will grow in maturity, in ministry, and in number.