

THE SECRET TO CHURCH GROWTH

Biblically speaking church growth is an “everybody’s job” kind of thing. It is not up to any one person to reach out with the Gospel any more than someone else can live your Christianity for you. We all believe the lost of the world need to hear the Gospel of Christ. We also believe we, as a group at Rivergate, are a friendly, inviting and biblical group of people. There are many reasons then we should be able to focus on growing the church and increasing the number of souls that hear the Good News at this congregation. How many of us have talents and skills that can be put to good use for the cause of Christ? This is the summer for great things to happen from the youngest to the oldest among us.

The secret to church growth is really no secret. It is plainly revealed within the pages of God’s word. You don’t have to travel hundreds of miles to a soul-winning workshop to unlock the secret of church growth. You don’t have to travel to the bookstore to purchase the latest volume written to reveal the mystery of church growth. Just travel over to the bookcase, pull down your copy of the sacred writings, open it to the New Testament and start reading.

Read of the life and ministry of Jesus. Read of how Jesus preached peace and went about doing good. (Jn. 16:33; Acts 10:38). Read of how he demonstrated his love for the lost (Mk. 10:21; Jn 15:13). Read of how he spoke the truth in love without ever compromising (Mt. 15:3-14). Read of the Jerusalem church and their common love for Christ and one another (Acts 2:44-47; 4:32-37). Read of how the first century Christian went everywhere preaching the word (Acts 8:4).

Read of the tremendous sacrifices endured by the Apostle Paul so that the cause of Christ might be advanced (2 Cor. 11:23-28). Note the duties and qualifications of elders and deacons (1 Tim. 3:1-13). Read the epistles to understand God’s will for each member of the Lord’s body. After you’ve read and read and read some more, read Revelation 1:3 to learn that just reading is not enough. We must read and then live out that which we have read.

What is the secret of church growth? When preachers speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15), and reprove, rebuke and exhort with all long suffering (2 Tim. 4:2), the church will grow. When elders shepherd the flock properly under the direction of the Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:1-4), the church will grow. When deacons serve well, it will be well with them and the growth of the church (1 Tim. 3:13; Acts 6:1-7). When each member seeks to live like Christ and to love like Christ, the church will grow. Simply put, the church will grow when every part of the body does its share. (Eph. 4:16). This is God’s plan, and it will not fail!

I just can’t help but believe this summer is going to be another speedy blur for most of us. In June I will preaching a Gospel Meeting in Springfield Missouri and in July we will host our Vacation Bible School. The next week I will be traveling to Bequia Island and conduct a Gospel Meeting, help with a Vacation Bible School and participate in a door knocking campaign. Our Summer series will be the months of June and July here at Rivergate. Help us make this year a great year by taking part in things that we know improve the lives of those who need God so badly.

See you Sunday and bring a friend!

In Christ,
James