

# BECOMING A HEALTHY CHURCH

*Pastor Rick Reager – September 12, 2021*

## I. THE BENEFITS OF BEING A HEALTHY CHURCH

### 1. THE NEEDS OF THE CHURCH MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_

*“All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had...<sup>34</sup> There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them<sup>35</sup> and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.” Acts 4:32 & 34-35*

### 2. THE CHURCH WILL \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...<sup>46</sup>Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts...<sup>31</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.” Acts 2:42,46 & 4:31*

### 3. THE CHURCH WILL \_\_\_\_\_

*“In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty)” Acts 1:15... “Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.” Acts 2:41... And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:47... “But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.” Acts 4:4... “When they heard this, they praised God. Then they said to Paul: ‘You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed.’” Acts 21:20*

#### **How Is Growth Good For The Church?**

- i. More Ministry Can Be Accomplished Due To \_\_\_\_\_**
- ii. More Needs Will Be Met Due To \_\_\_\_\_**
- iii. Church Growth \_\_\_\_\_**

### 4. THE CHURCH WILL SEE \_\_\_\_\_

*“Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.” Acts 2:43*

### 5. THE CHURCH WILL BE \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>32</sup>All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.<sup>33</sup> The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God’s great blessing was upon them all.” Acts 4:32-33*

### 6. THE CHURCH WILL BE \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>16</sup>He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.” Ephesians 4:16*

## II. WHY DO I CARE ABOUT THE HEALTH OF MY CHURCH?

*“<sup>11</sup>Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.<sup>12</sup> Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.<sup>13</sup> This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.*

*<sup>14</sup>Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new*

teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. <sup>15</sup> Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. <sup>16</sup> He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.” Ephesians 4:11-16

**1. I AM \_\_\_\_\_**

**2. WHEN I'M \_\_\_\_\_, I HELP THE CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_**

**3. WHEN THE CHURCH IS HEALTHY, IT HELPS \_\_\_\_\_**

### **III. HEALTH TIPS FROM THE EARLY CHURCH**

**1. WE MUST MAINTAIN A \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. <sup>46</sup>Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42-47*

**2. WE MUST MATURE VIA A COMMITMENT TO \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_**

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Acts 2:42*

**3. WE MUST MULTIPLY \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>46</sup>Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:46-47*

**4. WE MUST MAGNIFY \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>24</sup>When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. <sup>25</sup>You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: ‘Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>26</sup>The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.’” Acts 2:24-27*

**5. WE MUST MAINTAIN MOTIVATION TO \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>46</sup>Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:46-47*

**6. WE MUST MAXIMIZE THE \_\_\_\_\_**

*“After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.” Acts 4:31*

**7. WE MUST MODEL \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>32</sup>All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the*

*Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales <sup>35</sup>and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need." Acts 4:32-35*

## **8. WE MUST MOBILIZE** \_\_\_\_\_

*"<sup>1</sup>In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup>So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup>Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup>and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." <sup>5</sup>This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. <sup>6</sup>They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. <sup>7</sup>So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith." Acts 6:1-7*

## **9. WE MUST MINISTER WITH** \_\_\_\_\_

*"<sup>4</sup>On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'" Acts 1:4-5*

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8*

## **10. WE MUST MULTIPLY BY SHARING CHRIST** \_\_\_\_\_

*"And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:47*

*"<sup>13</sup> For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved. <sup>14</sup> But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? <sup>15</sup> And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!" Romans 10:13-15*