

Preparing to Grow

For many, church growth is all about new programs and the latest fads in the field of evangelism. We often want to look at “church growth experts” or congregations that have realized enormous growth and emulate what they did. We have an old saying, “Let’s not get the cart before the horse.”

A simple fact is that there are simply many congregations that are not prepared to grow. There may be a desire to do grow, but the preparation that is needed is not even considered. We must realize that there are some basic steps that are to be contemplated before the plans or methods used are even considered.

This consideration must be realized on a congregational basis. What must we do as a congregation to prepare for growth? One of the first things to do is to ensure that our worship services are designed to edify those in attendance. What will visitors hear? Will they hear sound, Bible preaching or fluff? What will they see in our demeanor? Will they be welcomed lovingly are looked upon as those who are intruding? Hopefully, they will realize a loving environment and be made to feel special (Jno. 13:34-35; Rom. 15:1-3).

We must also consider various things on an individual basis. If anyone is to be “brought to God” through our efforts, we must first strengthen our own relationship with God. They will hopefully hear the truth proclaimed. Will they see the truth lived as we walk among them in this society? We must also constantly be improving the relationship we enjoy with one another. Is there unity among us? Can the love we share for one another be observed by others? We can always improve in such areas.

I believe the church can grow here at College Hill. However, it will not come easy. We must be willing to make changes or improvements in our own spiritual lives. We must be willing to reach out as a congregation and provide a nurturing environment that is appealing to others. Are we willing to make the effort?

Outline: Preparing to Grow

1. What must we do as a congregation?

- A. Provide worship opportunities designed to edify.
- B. Be prepared to make new members feel welcome

2. What must we do as individuals?

- A. We must strengthen our own relationship with God.
- B. We must strengthen our relationship with others.
- C. We must develop a love for the lost

Sunday P.M.: 2 Kings