

## **A GROWING CHURCH (Acts 2:47)**

### **1. Preach Christ (Acts 2:22-28).**

- a. When Peter and the other apostles stood up to speak on that day, they preached a simple message of Christ and Him crucified.
  - i. They presented Jesus as One who was known to them.
  - ii. They presented Jesus as the Risen Savior.
  - iii. They presented Jesus as the prophesied Savior.
- b. You and I, if we want West Walker to grow, must preach Christ.
- c. Jesus has to be at the center of all that we are teaching.
  - i. We must point people to Christ and the cross.
  - ii. The reason for this is that is their only hope.
- d. The inspired writers and preachers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century did not preach social messages.
  - i. They preached a message of Christ that changed the social condition of people.
  - ii. They were not gimmicky in any way and didn't try to impress people with flash and things that lacked substance.
- e. Paul had tremendous success in Corinth, but noticed what he said about his preaching (1 Corinthians 2:1-2).

### **2. Enjoy Christian fellowship (Acts 2:42-46).**

- a. Those early brethren enjoyed being with one another.
  - i. Assembling together was a joy for them.
  - ii. They also would get together outside of the assembly.
- b. They ate together, prayed together, and studied together.
- c. Think of the situation in which they found themselves.
  - i. They were persecuted by the Jews around them.
  - ii. Their lives were in danger.
  - iii. They needed one another, not just on Sundays.
- d. The times in which we live call for fellowship among saints.
  - i. We are in the beginning stages of the rejection of Christianity in America, I believe.
  - ii. People feel as if Christianity has held America back from being a tolerant, open country capable of being multicultural and welcoming to all no matter the faith, sexual orientation, or political thought.
  - iii. We need to be with one another as much as possible for the support each of us needs.
- e. The early church understood that and it allowed them to show their love for one another which caused others to take notice.

### **3. Have a common purpose (Acts 4:32).**

- a. This is a financial consideration in this verse, I understand that.
- b. But why were they willing to sell what they had to help one another?
  - i. They had a common purpose.
  - ii. They loved one another and wanted one another to get to heaven.
- c. The Lord doesn't expect us to sell all that we own and give it to Him.
  - i. We need to be willing to do so if that is what it takes to help the

- brethren.
- ii. We should love one another enough to die for one another (1 John 3:16).
- d. We have a single purpose, to glorify God.
  - i. We fulfill that purpose in various ways.
  - ii. One of which is the way we take care of one another (John 13:34-35).

**4. Be respected by those outside the church (Acts 2:47; 5:13).**

- a. Notice what these verse tell us about those brethren.
  - i. They lived lives that even sinful people admired.
  - ii. The KJV says “magnified” in Acts 5:13, while the ESV says esteemed.
- b. The care for one another, their zeal for the Lord, their morality, and other attributes were all factors in this.
- c. Notice Acts 5:14.
  - i. Because of the esteem some had for them, there were conversions.
  - ii. Those people saw others who were different from them and decided they wanted to be like that.
- d. You and I ought to be influencing people in that way by the lives we lead.
  - i. Peter tells us that wives can win unbelieving husbands in this manner (1 Peter 3:1-3).
  - ii. We are to be lights to the world (Matthew 5:16-17).
- e. What are our lives telling others about Jesus?

**5. Be committed to obeying God (Acts 5:29).**

- a. Christianity is not a matter of convenience.
- b. Do you remember the shooting in Oregon a few weeks ago at the community college?
  - i. A man came in a classroom, armed, and began to ask each student if they were a Christian.
  - ii. The bravest person in that room had to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> one who said yes.
  - iii. Do you not think that would have been a convenient time for that person to deny Christ?
- c. The apostles were standing before a group of men that could have had them killed, yet this is what they said.
- d. Their commitment to the Lord was total and visible for those there to see.
- e. It doesn't matter what may come our way, we have to be committed to obeying God and it has to be something that is known before the heat of the moment.
  - i. We won't face the moment of truth and come with the right answer if it our minds haven't been made up long ago.
  - ii. No matter what the test or temptation is, this is the case.

**6. Be selfless (Acts 2:43-46; 4:31-37).**

- a. No doubt they all could have done other things with their money and possessions.
- b. They were willing to serve one another (Galatians 5:13).
- c. Christians model Christ.
  - i. Jesus was selfless in all that He did (Philippians 2:5-8).
  - ii. He put us first, like we are to put others first.

### **7.Practice evangelism (Acts 8:1-4).**

- a.Evangelism was not left to simply a faithful few.
  - i.All the Christians were banned from Jerusalem.
  - ii.Those that left went preaching.
- b.Nowhere in scripture do we read that evangelism is to be done by only a few in the congregation.
  - i.There is no one way to evangelize.
  - ii.You can talk to strangers, or you can talk to friends and family.
  - iii.You can use some type of planned method or you can simply show them scriptures in the Bible that go along with what you are saying.
  - iv.You can have them read a tract or get them to read “Muscle And A Shovel”.
- c.We won’t grow unless we evangelize.

Not an original outline but don't know the source