

# Problems Churches Must Solve

**Introduction.** The Lord's church will never be completely destroyed from the face of earth (Daniel 2:44; Hebrews 12:28). It cannot be destroyed because it is perpetuated by an indestructible seed (1 Peter 1:23-25).

Though the church will never be destroyed, congregations may die or lose their identity (Revelation 2:5; 3:1-6). Since this is the case, we need to know the problems God's people must face and solve if they are to succeed as a true church of the Lord.

## ***I. Low Growth***

- A. The church is losing ground in too many ways.
  - 1. Many faithful saints are growing old and passing away. Their faithfulness is not being replaced by others. We are also losing ground when people we do baptize fall by the wayside before they mature (Luke 8:13-14).
  - 2. Withdrawal of fellowship often fails to bring fallen Christians to repentance.
    - a) In a lot of cases, if withdrawal has been at all, it has been too slow or it was not supported by members of the church.
    - b) Those withdrawn from had already become callous, and thus, the withdrawing process had little effect.
- B. Solution:
  - 1. Modern churches have to study again how New Testament churches grew and implement it (Acts 8:4; Philippians 1:7; 2 Thessalonians 3:1).
  - 2. God has blessed many in this congregation with superior intelligence and a reasonable portion of this world's goods. Why can we not use our intelligence and resources to water and plant so the congregation can grow?
  - 3. Withdrawal of fellowship should be faithfully done, both in cases of moral impurity (1 Corinthians 5:4-5) and doctrinal impurity (Romans 16:17-18). Disfellowship should be done efficiently (Titus 3:10-11) and with a motive of restoration (2 Thessalonians 3:14-15).

## ***II. Division And Bitterness***

- A. The cause of Christ has been disgraced by brethren biting and devouring one another (Galatians 5:15).
  - 1. Division hinders progress and growth, and leads to other serious sins (Proverbs 6:19; Galatians 5:19-20; James 3:16).
  - 2. There are too many who love themselves, who are full of pride, and will not humble themselves to take a little precaution in order to halt division. Brethren need to be working together in the common cause rather than fighting with each other (1 Corinthians 3:3).
- B. Solution:
  - 1. Increase in our love toward one another. Love will take a lot of abuse without complaint (Proverbs 17:9; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 1 Peter 4:8).
  - 2. Build a close personal relationship with God by daily study, prayer, and meditation. This personal, deep-rooted, strong faith will motivate one to be concerned about other Christians and the Lord's cause.

### **III. The Loss Of Young People**

- A. The number of children who fall away from God has always been frightening.
  - 1. Someone has rightly said, “Churches are not losing our young people but parents are.”
  - 2. This is true; however, churches could do better as well.
    - a) Some Bible class curriculums are in shambles.
    - b) Some teachers are unqualified, and some do not prepare for class.
    - c) Some do not show up on time, and some do not show up at all.
- B. Solution:
  - 1. Churches need to do their very best to provide what is profitable for those in that time of life, whether it be through gospel preaching or in classes (Acts 5:21; 11:26; 14:21; 18:25; 20:20).
  - 2. Parents can be more diligent (Exodus 12:26-27; Joel 1:3). If you are lukewarm and indifferent, how do you think your children will be?
  - 3. For their part, children need to do their best to grow in grace and knowledge of Christ and mature into a strong Christian (2 Peter 1:5-7; 3:18; Jude 20).

### **IV. The Breakdown Of The Home**

- A. Major shifts in the last 40 years have dramatically altered American society.
  - 1. Because of easy, no-fault divorces, our nation’s family courts grant over a million divorces a year.
  - 2. Since becoming legal in 1973, approximately 55 million abortions have been performed in our country.
  - 3. Homosexuals keep openly pushing the “alternate lifestyle”, growing both in legislative influence and societal acceptance.
- B. Solution:
  - 1. Preach and stand against bitterness, hatred, adultery, homosexuality, fornication, and divorce (Matthew 19:5; Hebrews 12:15; 13:4).
  - 2. Additionally, a strong marriage is the best antidote against the breakdown of the home in these ways. So preaching must be done for husbands and wives to mature (Proverbs 5:18; James 3:17), learn to handle conflict (Colossians 3:8; James 1:19), to talk about issues with others (Proverbs 1:5; 11:14), and to control their mind with regard to affairs (Matthew 5:27-28; James 1:14-15).

### **V. Materialism And Worldliness**

- A. Many Christians have a worldly interest and are chasing money and goods.
  - 1. Better cars, houses, and furniture are not wrong in and of themselves, but they can so occupy our time and energy that they become wrong. Are we really godly when we are living for carnal possessions (Revelation 3:17-19)?
  - 2. Aside from materialism, some have succumbed to worldliness.
    - a) Some are like those in Nehemiah's day — violating the holy day and displeasing the Lord (Nehemiah 13:15-21).
    - b) Some may sit in the assemblies and do everything God wants, but mentally (with their phones) or physically sleep through it all.

B. Solution:

1. If you are going to love God, it has to involve your heart, soul, and mind (Joshua 22:5; Matthew 22:37-38).
2. You cannot claim to fear God while spending every waking hour serving mammon (Matthew 4:10; 6:24; cp. Hosea 10:1-2; Colossians 3:5).
3. Every righteous person is working to be “rich toward God” (Matthew 6:19-20, 33; Luke 12:20-21; 1 Timothy 6:17-19).

**VI. Lack Of Leadership**

A. Many congregations have been in existence for years, but have no elders and no immediate prospects for them.

1. Most congregations ignore the need — they just drift along as usual.
2. Organized leadership is God’s will (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5).
  - a) God expects overseers to be faithful in discharging their duties (Romans 12:8; cp. Acts 20:35; 1 Thessalonians 5:12; Titus 1:11; Hebrews 13:17).
  - b) Without elders a congregation is ruled by majority; this puts the babes in Christ — the young and inexperienced — on equal footing with the older and more mature Christians. This can create strife and division.

B. Solution:

1. Encourage men to develop themselves and serve as elders and deacons (1 Timothy 3:1-10, 12-13; Titus 1:5-9). Their wives need to be encouraged to develop themselves too (1 Timothy 3:11).
2. Stand behind the men who accept the challenge and diligently works at it (1 Timothy 5:17; Hebrews 13:17).

**Conclusion.** Though the church will never be destroyed, local churches can vanish, and many of them are vanishing. If these problems continue to be prevalent, churches will continue to die, but God will bless this congregation if we solve these issues and diligently work our hardest to please Him.