

And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”

Mark 16:15

Store In My Heart

John 17:20-21

I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Jesus asks the Father not only for the Apostles to be one, but also all those who believe in Him through the teaching the Apostles would deliver. We have opportunity today to put our trust in God because of what those men taught through the inspiration of the Spirit. If we all follow those same teachings we will all be one with Jesus, the Apostles, the Spirit, the Father, and all others who have submitted to that Word.

Such unity of belief and practice would show the world that our belief must be in God for it could never be found among men otherwise.



Churches That Grow

Kyle Campbell

There’s a lot of Christians who think that in order for their churches to grow, a big push or program has to be enacted before any results occur. The inertia of a big program makes this feel like a non-starter, honestly.

But surprisingly, churches that grow are the ones that have mobilized their members to invite people to study Scripture and attend their assemblies. That’s all. It’s really that simple.

Of course, when someone comes in the door, they have to feel like people appreciate them being there, and that what’s being done is consequential to the ones doing it.

Additionally, visitors have to feel that a church is in a state of peace and harmony or they’ll bolt — and fast. Members have to “*keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*” (**Ephesians 4:3**) to have any chance to bring people to Jesus Christ.

Don’t think of large, unattainable goals. Think of asking one person to “come and see” next Sunday morning. Even if they don’t take you up on the offer, the next invitation will be easier — I promise.

I am reminded of my youth as I read and contemplate the words of brother Campbell.

Growing up we always had a garden. I am pretty sure that is the main reason we always had plenty of food on our table

for ourselves and to share a little with others. If you have ever tried to keep three growing boys fed, you understand, but back to my thoughts. No matter what else we planted Dad always planted several rows of purple hull peas. I remember watching, and when I was older helping, him make a furrow in the top of the row and then walk down each one dropping seed at regular intervals. I was never as good as him at getting the seed in the furrow or keeping my spacing even. I remember wondering why we were not more precise in our spacing or making sure we only dropped one seed at each spot. Of course, once the plants had sprouted and filled the row you could not determine our spacing. Everything looked full.

Years later, while planting my own garden a time or two I tried to be more precise and not waste any seed. When the plants had grown I could see several empty spots along the rows and I understood. There will always be some seed that does not sprout, no matter how much care you put into preparing the soil. But if we are generous with the sowing of the seed, we will have a good crop anyway.

It is similar with teaching the Word of God. We will get rejections to our invitations no matter how careful we are in selecting our prospects. In fact the more selective we are in our attempts to teach the more obvious and frequent those rejections will stand out. We need to remember that the Gospel is to be preached to "all creation." There is no need to be selective in our attempts to teach others. Everyone needs to hear the Word of the Lord. Too often we judge before we make the attempt because we don't want to be rejected. We need to stop focusing on finding the right prospect and just go about teaching the Word. The more we invite, the more often we will see results. DLH

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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For Our Information

John Ragsdale was diagnosed with Leukemia last week. He received a couple of units of blood because his body is no longer producing blood.

Brenda Keisler will have knee replacement surgery in 3 weeks or so.

Paula Laubach has an appointment with the heart doctor Tuesday.

Jim Soliday is scheduled for a heart cath on Monday.

Sue Soliday has not felt well this past week. Vickie McNees has been sick the past week. Annette Gray had a flare up of her shingles last week.

Dan Henderson's Mom was in the hospital due to fluid buildup most of last week. She is back home now and doing much better.

JoBeth Henderson's brother, Jeffrey Melton, should be able to put full weight on his new hip by the end of May.

The Simpson family is out of town this weekend.

Sunday Evening study - **2Kings 20**. Wednesday Evening - **Hebrews 12:18**.

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

