

Growth in the Local Church



**Maintaining Proper
Perspective**

- The growth of a local church is a good thing!
 - ⇒ It means the Gospel is being shared.
 - ⇒ It means people are being active (Philippians 4.15).
- Growth is something we should be seeking after!
 - ⇒ The early church was characterized by growth (Acts 2.41; 4.4).
- Church numerical increase is not the end goal.

Church Growth is Desirable!



- The local church is compared to a body (Romans 12.3ff).
 - ⇒ A body grows legitimately by dedication and exercise.
 - ⇒ A body grows illegitimately by infection and swelling.
- Church growth and church swelling are distinct concepts.
 - ⇒ The early church was growing, not swelling (Acts 2.40-42,47).
 - ⇒ The church at Pergamum seems to have experienced this concept of swelling instead of growth (Revelation 2.12ff).

Growth or Swelling?



➤ Make the glorification of God the priority.

⇒ This is what we're called to do (1 Peter 4.11).

⇒ God is glorified when His word is understood (Acts 11.18).

⇒ God is glorified when we live godly lives (2 Thess. 1.11f).

⇒ God is glorified when we do His will (John 12.47f).

⇒ God is glorified by our unity in His Son (Romans 15.5-7).

➤ Don't lose sight of the marginalized.

⇒ The Acts 6 controversy

Ensuring Church Growth



- Preach the Gospel and hold each other accountable.
 - ⇒ The church grew when the Gospel was taught (Acts 2-4).
 - ⇒ Paul commended elders to the word of God (Acts 20.32).
 - ⇒ Paul called on those elders to be watchful (Acts 20.28).
 - ⇒ We must be watchful for each other (Galatians 6.1f).

Ensuring Church Growth



To legitimately grow the local church:

- ⇒ We must make God and His glorification the priority.
- ⇒ While growing, we must not lose sight of the marginalized.
- ⇒ We must dedicate ourselves to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- ⇒ We must be willing to hold each other accountable and be held accountable by others.



Numbers don't make a church; dedication to Christ makes a church!