What Can You Do to Build Up the Church in . . .?
1 John 5:12-13

INTRODUCTION:
A. Jude 20 – “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith . . .”
B. It is important for you to know that:
   1. When you obeyed the gospel, Christ added you to His church.
   2. You are a living stone . . . A living component in the church.
   3. Together . . . Every member, you are the church in . . .
C. Every Christian here should be interested in advancing the cause of Christ through the work of your local congregation.
D. Have you ever really thought about what makes a church great?
E. Jesus built a great church - Does all things well.
   1. Matthew 16:18 - Promised to build the church.
      a. I believe it was great.
      b. Christ would build only great & nothing less.
      c. It was God’s will.
      d. In mind of God before world was made.
F. Before looking at what makes a church a great church, let us look at some Misconceptions about what makes a church great.
   1. “Large numbers make a church great.”
      a. Numbers are important in that they represent souls.
      b. While numbers are great, they are no guarantee of greatness.
   2. “Wealthy members make a church great.”
      a. While wealth, like any resource, can be an advantage in God’s service, it can also be a hindrance.
      b. Laodicea. Revelation 3:17 - “Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'--and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.”
      c. Paul warned Timothy that the rich fall into temptation. 1 Tim. 6:9
      d. The poor in possessions can be rich in faith.
   3. “A membership of society’s elite makes a great church.”
      a. This could be an advantage if their influence was used properly.
      b. It would hurt the church if it wasn’t.
WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BUILD UP THE CHURCH IN . . . . .

A. Be A SHARING people.
   1. “Fellowship” means “partnership.”
      a. Share financially.
      b. Share emotionally.
      c. Share prayerfully.
   2. Sharing people keep their eyes off of themselves and on the needs of others.

B. Be A LOVING people
   1. Love for God, Truth, and others.
   2. Love is expressed in concern and actions.

C. Be A RIGHTEOUS people
   1. Righteous means “right living.”

D. Be A UNITED people
   1. Unity produces strength to stand against opposition.
   2. Every congregation needs strong unity.

E. Be A SERVING people
   1. Serving God and serving others.
   2. Christ was a servant.

F. Be An OBEDIENT people
   1. Obey and do His will. James 1:22 - “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

G. Be A GROWING people
   1. Growing in faith, knowledge and wisdom.

H. Be A PRAYERFUL people
   1. Prayer creates a joyful, God-trusting, confident people at peace.

I. Be A PURE people
   1. Outward righteousness comes from inward purity.

J. Be A CARING people
   1. Care about each other.
   2. Care about those who are still lost.

K. Be A FAITHFUL people
   1. Never doubting God.
   2. Never doubting your faith.
   4. Never doubt God’s will for your life.

L. Be A LOOKING church
1. Some churches look for the wrong things.
2. Look for the right things.
   a. Look for opportunities to be better servants of the Lord.
   b. Look for opportunities to help others see Him in you.
   c. Look for opportunities to teach and lead others to salvation.
   d. Look for the coming of the Lord . . . judgment . . . and Heaven.

CONCLUSION:
A. Brethren and friends, Listen:
   1. A great congregation can become a greater congregation.
   2. A great membership can become a greater membership.
   3. A great leadership can become a greater leadership.
   4. A great work can become a greater work.
   5. A great knowledge can become a greater knowledge.
   6. A great faith can become a greater faith.
   7. A great you can become a greater you. You and God can make it happen.
B. What are you doing to make this congregation a greater congregation?
C. ILLUSTRATION: “I Have No Hands But Yours.”
D. In the eyes of God may this ever be a great church . . . and may you ever be a great part of it.
E. The Plan of Salvation