

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. A. 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.
3. Never ever doubting God’s Holy Word.
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**