

Church Growth

Text: Matthew 16:18

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

Elkin, NC

Danny Dodds, Pastor

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INTRODUCTION

Matt. 16:18 – “And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Acts 2:46-47 – “And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

I. GOD HAS PURPOSED THAT HIS CHURCH GROW

- A. Every church should experience spiritual growth (*Rom. 8:29; 2 Pet. 1:3-8*).
- B. Every church should grow numerically as God adds to the church those being saved.
 - 1) Numerical growth should come primarily through evangelism.
 - 2) Christ commands the church to evangelize and make disciples in the Great Commission (*Matt. 28:18-20*)

II. HINDRANCES TO CHURCH GROWTH

- A. Complacency
- B. Division
- C. Unfriendliness
- D. Stubbornness
- E. In today's society, adherence to Biblical truth
- F. An inward focus
- G. A lack of vision and purpose (*Prov. 29:18 – “Where there is no vision, the people perish”*)
- H. Poor leadership
- I. Unconcern for lost souls (*Ps. 142:4 – “I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul”*)
- J. Little or no evangelism