

# What Does The Church Need?

Intro: This lesson is extremely difficult for there are so many areas which we could and probably should discuss. There is a great need for sound preachers (and members) who will take a stand in defending the Truth. The church vitally needs faithful elders. We could discuss our need to be strong and courageous, our need to love God first and foremost, but also to love our fellow man. We could talk about our need for kindness and generosity (benevolence). We could expound on our need for moral purity. The church needs homes which will put God first in their lives and parents who will bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of God.

## I. RESPECT

### A. For God

1. We tend to think of God as a grand-fatherly type person who would simply accept anything.
2. There are those who treat God as if He were someone who was common (as is seen in the way they dress and approach worship).

### B. For God's Word

1. So we do not make any alterations to it.
2. We cannot add to it, take anything away from it, or change it in any way.
  - a. Deu. 4:2 <sup>2</sup>Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”
  - b. Gal. 1:6-9 <sup>6</sup>I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: <sup>7</sup>Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup>But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. <sup>9</sup>As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”
  - c. Rev. 22:18-19 <sup>18</sup>For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: <sup>19</sup>And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.”
3. Respect that will lead us to do only what the Bible authorizes us to do.
  - a. Mat. 21:23-25 <sup>23</sup>And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? <sup>24</sup>And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?”
  - b. Col. 3:17 <sup>17</sup>And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

## II. EVANGELISTIC FERVOR

### A. The Great Commission

1. Mat. 28:19-20 <sup>19</sup> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup> Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.”
2. Mark 16:15-16 <sup>15</sup> And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup> He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
3. Preachers alone cannot evangelize the world.
  - a. It will take every member of every congregation realizing their personal responsibility.
  - b. Acts 8:4 <sup>4</sup> Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”
  - c. How many have you lead to Christ within the past year, past 5 years, etc.

### B. What will the church be in 5, 10, 50 years.

1. Not talking about liberal congregations.
2. Talking about those congregations who hold to the truth.
3. How many are we converting now?
4. Are we preparing men to be elders?
5. Will this congregation even be in existence then?

**Conclusion:** What does the church need? It needs a converted membership; people converted to Christ.