

# Establishing Priorities In The Local Church!

*“But seek first His kingdom and His  
righteousness, and all these things  
will be added to you!”*

**(Matthew 6:33)**

# Establishing Priorities In The Local Church

What is the top priority for  
this church?

1. Full-Time Preacher
2. Debt-Free Church  
Building

# **Establishing Priorities In The Local Church**

**Some churches get  
these two things and  
then do nothing else  
for the Lord,  
spiritually.**

# Establishing Priorities In The Local Church

What would be some more important priorities for any local church?

1. Peace
2. Growth
3. Soundness
4. Accomplishments

# Establishing Priorities In The Local Church

1. Peace – The ability to get along

- 1 Thessalonians 5:13



***“Think of them highly with love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.”***

***1 Thessalonians 5:13, CEB***

# Establishing Priorities In The Local Church

**1. Peace – The ability to get along**

- 1 Thessalonians 5:13

**2. Growth – Numerical growth**

- Acts 2:47

***“...And the Lord  
added to the church  
daily such as should  
be saved.”***

***Acts 2:47, KJV***



# Establishing Priorities In The Local Church

**1. Peace – The ability to get along**

- 1 Thessalonians 5:13

**2. Growth – Numerical growth**

- Acts 2:47

**3. Soundness – Doctrinal soundness**

- Titus 1:13; 2:1

***“This statement is true.  
Because of this, correct  
them firmly, so that  
they can be healthy in  
their faith.”***

***Titus 1:13, CEB***

**“But you should talk in  
a way that is consistent  
with sound teaching..”**

***Titus 2:1, CEB***

# Establishing Priorities In The Local Church

## 1. Peace – The ability to get along

- 1 Thessalonians 5:13

## 2. Growth – Numerical growth

- Acts 2:47

## 3. Soundness – Doctrinal soundness

- Titus 1:13; 2:1

## 4. Accomplishments – Things we do

- Gospel meetings; VBS; Bible Correspondence Course; Home Bible Studies; Support of Preachers
- Philippians 4:15-16

***“ You Philippians know from the time of my first mission work in Macedonia how no church shared in supporting my ministry except you.”***

***Philippians 4:15, CEB***

***“ You sent contributions repeatedly to take care of my needs even while I was in Thessalonica.”***

***Philippians 4:16, CEB***

# Establishing Priorities In The Local Church

## Questions:

How would you rank the priority of these things for this local church?

Which one would you rank # 1, # 2, # 3, and # 4?

**Peace? Growth? Soundness?  
Accomplishments?**

# Establishing Priorities In The Local Church

## 1. Doctrinal Soundness!





# Doctrinal Soundness

- **Soundness ahead of peace!**
  - James 3:17
- **Soundness ahead of numerical growth!**
  - 1 Kings 18:22
- **Soundness ahead of accomplishments!**
  - 1 Samuel 15:20-22

# Establishing Priorities In The Local Church

**1. Doctrinal Soundness!**

**2. Peace!**



*“What of the wisdom from above? First, it is pure, and then peaceful, gentle, obedient, filled with mercy and good actions, fair, and genuine.”*

*James 3:17, CEB*

# Peace

Have you ever known of local churches so torn up with internal strife that they couldn't even begin to reach the lost?

Two Bible Examples:

## Corinth

1:11; 3:3; 5:1,2; 6:1; 11:18,20,21

## Thessalonica

1 Thess. 1:7,8; 4:9,10

# Establishing Priorities In The Local Church

1. Doctrinal Soundness!
2. Peace!
3. Accomplishments!

# Accomplishments

It is very important that the local church be busy doing the Lord's work!

**1 Corinthians 15:58**



***“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”***

***1 Corinthians 15:58, KJV***

# Accomplishments

It is very important that the local church be busy doing the Lord's work!

**1 Corinthians 15:58**

We are speaking of the collective work of the church, not just individual effort.

**Revelation 2:5,19**



# Accomplishments

- We must not sacrifice doctrinal soundness for the sake of doing what some call “good works!”
- Some believe the end justifies the means!

**Colossians 3:17**

***“Whatever you do,  
whether in speech or  
action, do it all in the  
name of the Lord Jesus  
and give thanks to God  
the Father through him.”***

***Colossians 3:17, CEB***

# **Establishing Priorities In The Local Church**

- 1. Doctrinal Soundness!**
- 2. Peace!**
- 3. Accomplishments!**
- 4. Numerical Growth!**

# Growth

- Here is an interesting fact: We have Biblical commands for soundness, peace, and accomplishment, yet none at all for **numerical** growth!
- But we do have a command for **spiritual** growth.

**2 Peter 3:18**

***“...Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him belongs glory now and forever.”***

***2 Peter 3:18, CEB***

# Growth

- Does this mean that numerical growth is not important? Not at all!

**Acts 2:41; 4:4**

- The principle of “Divine Subtraction!”

**Acts 5:1-11**

- Numerical growth will take care of itself when all other things are in their proper place ... then the glory belongs to God!

**1 Corinthians 3:6**

***“I planted, Apollos watered, but God made it grow.”***

***1 Corinthians 3:6, CEB***

# **Growth**

**If local churches make numerical growth their number one priority, sooner or later doctrinal soundness is sacrificed!**



# **Establishing Priorities In The Local Church**

- 1. Doctrinal Soundness!**
- 2. Peace!**
- 3. Accomplishments!**
- 4. Numerical Growth!**

**We Must Get  
Our Priorities Right**