

# Establishing Priorities In The Local Church

*“But seek first the kingdom of God  
and his righteousness, and all these  
things will be added to you!”*

**Matthew 6:33**

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What would be some important priorities of a 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
- 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

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## Question:

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

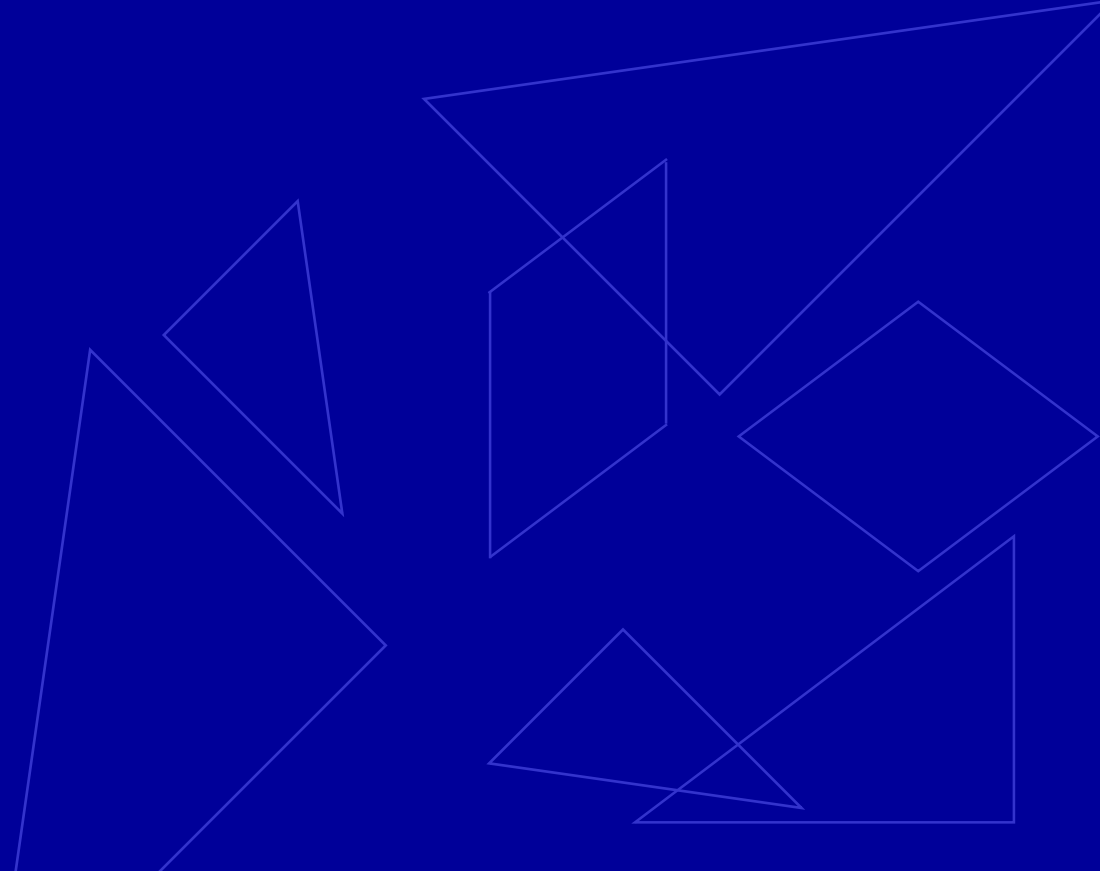
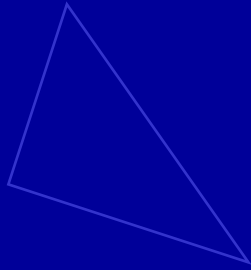
Which one would you rank # 1, # 2, # 3, & # 4?

**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

# Peace

## The Bible Order:

*“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.”*

**James 3:17**



# 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

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- 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**

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**

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- 1) Doctrinal Soundness
- 2) Peace
- 3) Accomplishments
- 4) Numerical Growth

# Growth

Interesting fact – we have Biblical commands for soundness, peace, and accomplishments, yet none at all for numerical growth!

We do have a command for spiritual growth

**2 Peter 3:18**

# 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**

# Growth

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



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- 3) Accomplishments
- 4) Numerical Growth