

Growing Pains

1. Using the book of Acts as a possible model for church growth we learn that many problems occurred in that first church.
2. Since the church is always the result of a perfect God working with flawed people. The people end is where the problems begin and end.
3. All spiritual church growth is the result of the work of God's Spirit and the prayers and actions of God's people.
4. A healthy church has to have devotion to some core principles that result in believers becoming true disciples of Christ. Acts 2:42
5. Dedication to the right principles produces unity. Acts 2:44; 4:32
6. Some people will role play. Acts 5
7. The worldly rulers will not like us or our message. Acts 5:17
8. New circumstances will call for new approaches to reach people.
 - Acts 8:26-31 (Chariot Conversion)
 - Wesley's field preaching
9. We must cross out of our comfort zone. Acts 10
10. The very best of leaders have frequently went through times of being misunderstood. Acts 11:1-3
11. The church, if it is healthy, must have a 4 pronged approach to its mission
 1. Home base-Jerusalem
 2. Immediate community of outreach-Judea
 3. Neighboring communities even of difficult people-Samaritans
 4. Uttermost parts of the world or foreign missions support
12. At times, even good people separate. Acts 15:36-41
 - It could be from lack of maturity at times.
 - At other times it could be a disagreement over direction, where the church should go.
13. Personal character aka "the imitation of Christ," is the greatest ally truth has. If we take living like Christ seriously and seek to share the whole Bible, we will not fail. Acts 24:9-16
14. In every age, in each generation some will listen and be added to the church. Acts 28:24-28