

## **A Dozen of the Most Important Things for our Church**

1. The Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God, and it is our sole authority for what is true, right, and just. It is the will of God on how we should live our lives in order to be successful and to be blessed by God in every area of our life. The Bible is the key to each of us having a growing love and intimacy with God. Because of this we should read it every day, every day, every day, study it often, and memorize and meditate on it as a way of life.
2. Prayer is a major priority of our life; God's will is that we be devoted to prayer. Each believer needs to spend time with God in prayer every day in order to experience His power, His joy, His peace, wisdom, and to know Him intimately. Husbands and wives will have a much better marriage if they pray together at least several times each week. The church, the Body of Christ, will function in unity and love and will be powerfully used by God to reach the lost and make disciples if they pray together as the army of God. "Much prayer = much blessing. Little prayer = little blessing. No prayer = no blessing."
3. God's desire for each of us is that we become increasingly more holy and righteous. As a church we need to pursue righteousness, examining our own life and confessing all known sin to God. As a loving church family we need to pray for one another, encourage one another, and hold each other accountable as we pursue holiness together. In the process of pursuing holiness we will forgive anybody of anything because we have been forgiven by God.
4. Every church naturally and easily becomes in-grown, that is, the focus of most activities in the church becomes the health and success of the people in the church to the neglect of reaching the lost. Jesus has commissioned us to be His ambassadors, His witnesses, the church is God's only method of reaching lost people. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer to give us power to be His witness. The number one reason churches become lukewarm and dead is because of a low priority on reaching lost people.
5. The "Great Commission" given to the church by Jesus is "go and make disciples." A disciple is more than a believer in Jesus, a disciple is a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ who has declared Him to be their Lord, master, and King and that they will obey Him and serve Him with undivided devotion. A disciple is someone who is growing in Christ like character, who is serving Him with their time, money, and gifts, and who is becoming very successful as a "fisher of men." Disciple making will happen in the church primarily by the teaching ministries in the church and the successful "one-anothering" commands being practiced faithfully by every member.

6. The gospel is the power of God for salvation. The gospel is the essence of what we must believe to be true in order to be saved from the penalty of sin, adopted into the family of God, and live eternally with Him.

a. Jesus is God, equal with the Father, always has been and always will be.

b. Jesus left heaven and became flesh exactly like us experiencing all that we experience and being tempted in every way as we are tempted.

c. Jesus never sinned, He lived a sinless life in order to become our substitute and pay for the penalty of our sins.

d. Jesus became our sin, the Father put all of our sins on Jesus and punished Him for our sins, Jesus died on the cross as part of the punishment for our sins.

e. Jesus was buried and three days later rose from the dead and is alive today reigning with the Father.

7. A lost person is saved by the “A” “B” “C” s. **Admitting** that they are lost, eternally separated from God because of their sin, and that they can’t ever be good enough to save themselves. **Believing** by faith the gospel to be true and accepting from God the gift of salvation by grace. **Committing** themselves to seek a growing relationship with Jesus and pursuing holiness and righteousness as a way of life by the power that God supplies.

8. The church is the “Body of Christ.” The church is the “Bride of Christ,” the eternal companion of Jesus, Jesus loves the church and gave His life for the church. Our commitment to Jesus is expressed by our commitment to His Body, the church. Our love for Jesus is expressed by our love for His Bride, the church. The New Testament does not teach a Christianity apart from the church.

9. God’s will for His Bride, the Body of Christ is that the church grows. As our church pursues the lost and functions as a witness and an ambassador for Jesus, we will reach the lost and we will grow in numbers. As we obey the “Great Commission” and make disciples our church will grow in maturity and Christ-like character. “Deep and Wide” is the expression of this twofold growth. *Deep* is growing in holiness and character, and *Wide* is growing in numbers of people who are getting saved from the domain of darkness into the Kingdom of Christ.

10. The judgment of every believer at the end of their life by Jesus for the life that they have lived and the receiving of eternal rewards and the loss of those rewards, ought to be a major motivation for every believer to diligently pursue Christ-like character and to accomplish much fruit in their life. A Biblical

understanding of eternal rewards recognizes that all rewards are based on the quality and depth of our eternal relationship with Jesus.

11. Every person who is part of the Body of Christ ought to be involved in some way in a ministry. It can be a serving ministry, a teaching ministry, a ministry to children or adults. A good motto for the church is, "Don't be a wart!" A wart is part of the Body but it doesn't do anything and it looks ugly.

12. Goals are good. A goal is a statement of repentance. A goal is a statement of faith. A goal is a statement of what we believe is God's will for our lives individually and corporately as a church. As a church we will set goals, promote those goals, pray for those goals, and work towards the accomplishment of those goals together.