

Remnant Life Church
Sunday, January 27, 2013

Habits of a Healthy Church

Acts 2:42-47

- There are as many types of churches as there are buildings that house them.
- The largest church in the world is in Seoul, S. Korea – 850,000
 - Yodio Full Gospel Church - Pastor David Yonggi Cho
 - 528 associate pastors
- The largest church in the US is 43,000 – Joel Osteen – Lakewood Church - Houston, TX
- Large, small, elaborate, simple, program-missionary-outreach driven
 - Strong or weak
 - Build up or discourage
 - Healthy or unhealthy
 - Alive or dead

How can a church start and STAY healthy?

- No church or ministry began by saying they wanted to eventually get weaker and fail or become ineffective.
- Jim and Tammy Faye started as a puppet ministry
 - Pat Robertson's CBN in 1966
 - PTL park was the 3rd most successful theme park in the nation at the height of its function
 - Co-founders of the Trinity Broadcasting Network with Paul Crouch

Romans 15:1-7

- Background – chapter 14 and the eating of meat
 - Some came from pagan backgrounds where meat was offered to idols
 - Some the pagan priests ate and the other was sent to the market
 - Many were concerned that the meat they would eat had been offered to idols so they decided not to eat meat at all
 - Others felt that Jesus had given them freedom from all that and everything created by God was also set free from that
 - Paul instructed that the issue was not eating but how what you did impacted someone else

- Paul gives them instruction with what they as a church should focus on:
 - **Not** about being a *PEOPLE PLEASER*
- 1. **Consideration for each other** (v 1-2)
 - a. That consideration is for the edifying or building up of others
 - b. This means that I may need to defer to someone else
- 2. **Study of the Word** (v 4)
 - a. Paul writes of the old testament (especially the books of the law)
 - b. Today we have the entire scripture
- 3. **Endurance and encouragement** (v 4)
 - a. **Phil 3:14** – pressing on toward the goal
 - b. The Christian life is a marathon not a sprint
- 4. **Hope** – (v 4)
 - a. Life should be about realism but not pessimism
 - b. **Col. 1:20** – Jesus is our hope of glory
 - c. Hope is not outside of faith
- 5. **Harmony** (v 5)
 - a. Unity within a church will do as much as almost anything else to ensure health
 - b. Satan desires to bring division
 - c. Defer to others – (cutting down of the tree)
- 6. **Follow the example of Jesus** (v 6)
 - a. Who do you emulate?
 - b. Guide our young ones to have positive examples
- 7. **Praise** (v 7)
 - a. Our praise should come from the place of understanding that Jesus accepted us just as we were with love
 - b. Can we do any less to those we come here to worship with?

What should you find here at Remnant Life?

1. A place of safety
2. You are loved
3. Challenged
4. Encouraged
5. Taught
6. Held accountable
7. Accepted