How can I make a positive difference in this church?

David Banning · Series: **Meeting with David Banning**

INTRODUCTION

- What is it that makes a church effective in the work that it does for the Lord?
- It's never been about one person or even a group of people. The truth is that all of us are determining what's happening to our group.
- How can I make a positive difference in the church where I'm a member?

1 Be a Participant

1 Peter 4:10; Romans 12:3–6

- If I want to make a positive difference where I am, then I need to be a participant.
- There aren't supposed to be any spectators. All of us are supposed to be participants.
- As each one has received a special gift. Employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
- God doesn't care what your talent is. He only cares that you find it out and get busy using it.
- The more congregations fill up with spectators and the bleachers and fewer participants in the game, the more quickly we begin to die.
- Am I a spectator? Or am I a participant?

2 Be Positive

Philippians 1:3–5; Hebrews 10:24

- If we want to help the church where we're a member thrive, then secondly, we need to be positive.
- I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all in view of your participation and the gospel from the first day until now.
- Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds.
- First of all, be stingy with your criticism.
- Secondly, be generous with your praise. Be looking for good things to come in. Make sure you say more positive things than negative things.

3 Be Peaceful

Romans 14:19; Ephesians 4:1–3; Matthew 18

- We can help make a positive difference in the church where we're a member if we will make it a point to be peaceful.
- So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

- When I've got a problem with a brother, I'm going to go to him as Jesus taught me to do in Matthew 18. And we're going to talk that problem out.
- We do it because the work of God is more important than our selfish pride.
- Congregations cannot thrive in an atmosphere of conflict and fussing.

4 Be Persistent

Galatians 6:9

- The last thing we need to do is we must be persistent.
- Do not lose heart in doing good. For in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.
- Those brethren persisted in the Lord's work in spite of the setbacks of the opposition, and just on the other side of all of that adversity, there was this great harvest.
- Churches thrive in an atmosphere when disciples have their mind on the prize and will not be deterred no matter what the devil throws their way.
- We must persist. The work is too important not to.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **What difference am I making? Because we will all make a difference.**

MY NOTES