Nine Essentials For Growth (Last Sermon)

Robert Harkrider · 2 Peter 1:12–13

INTRODUCTION

- I've decided that I wanted to talk about nine essentials for growth. I believe that the church here has a great future for you.
- Even as the apostle Peter could write and say, here are things you already know, but I want to remind you of them.

1 Founded Upon Preaching of the Word

- It must be founded upon preaching of the word of God.
- Preach the word, be ready in season and out of season, convince, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and teaching.
- A church that's really a church of the Lord is founded upon the word of God. It is not just a social gathering.
- Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

2 Total Commitment and Strong Morality

Matthew 13:45–46; Romans 12:1–2

- Who is first in the life of every disciple? It must be Jesus Christ.
- Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be my disciple.
- Total commitment, my beloved, is the real key to true discipleship and really enjoying, understanding what it means to rejoice in the Lord always.
- If you're totally committed to the Lord, there's not going to be any sign of hypocrisy.
- Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

3 A Loving, Enfolding Spirit; Every Member Involved

1 Peter 1:22; 1 Peter 4:8; Ephesians 4:16

- A close, loving, enfolding spirit. A congregation that is filled with love.
- Love one another fervently with a pure heart. It doesn't make that a matter of choice.
- Love will indeed seek what is best for the other.
- In the Lord's sight, every joint, every person has a part, has a share in it.
- If every member were as involved as I am, what kind of church would this be?

4 Enthusiastic Bible Classes

Ephesians 4:11–13

- God's purpose is that every Christian come to a maturity.

- In a Bible class, you can raise a question, you can talk about it.
- Classes will not be boring and dull if the teacher and the students both prepare.

5 Good, Calm, Steady Leadership and Meaningful Worship

Acts 2:42

- Obey those who rule over you. Be submissive. Why? For they watch out for your souls as those who must give account.
- Indeed, hold up the hands and pray for those who are in those responsible positions already.
- They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship and the breaking of bread and prayers.
- If you don't get anything out of it's probably because you didn't put anything into it.

6 Special Opportunities to Glorify God

1 Corinthians 15:58

- Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.
- There are things we can do at periods other than the announced assembly times.
- As a person who's totally committed, I'm looking for opportunities to serve God and to glorify Him.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **If you've never been baptized into Jesus Christ, that his blood may wash away your sins. Why not today? Why not even this morning?**

MY NOTES