



"THE BENEFITS OF A SMALL CHURCH"

Just because we are not
large does not mean we
are worthless or
unimportant.

INTRODUCTION

- ◆ Churches come in all sizes...
- ◆ Some are large, numbering in the thousands, even tens of thousands
- ◆ Some are small, with as few as two or more people meeting in a home

INTRODUCTION (cont'd)

- ◆ The definition of church sizes is rather arbitrary.
- ◆ Each size has its advantages...
- ◆ There are things a larger church can do with its increased resources
- ◆ But there are benefits of small churches often lost in larger churches

BENEFITS OF A SMALL CHURCH

- ◆ **A STRONGER SENSE OF FAMILY...**
- ◆ **A small church is one where almost everyone knows each another**
- ◆ **Face-to-face interaction is much easier**

BENEFITS OF A SMALL CHURCH (cont'd)

- ◆ Even when we don't remember their names, we remember their "face"
- ◆ A small church is one where it is easier to develop familial relationships



BENEFITS OF A SMALL CHURCH

- ◆ A sense of **"family"**, which is proper –
- ◆ **1 Timothy 5:1-2**
- ◆ An opportunity to cross generational lines
- ◆ Where children learn to relate to others besides their peers



BENEFITS OF A SMALL CHURCH

- ◆ Where young and old benefit from each other's strengths
- ◆ **The family of God is a wonderful blessing (Mark 10:28-30)**
- ◆ **A blessing most often experienced in small churches**

GREATER OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW

- ◆ The roles to fulfill are not that much different between large and small churches
- ◆ Roles such as serving in public worship, Bible classes, etc.
- ◆ Whether large or small, the number of teachers, preachers, song leaders, etc., that are needed is about the same

GREATER OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW

- ◆ The ratio of roles to members is usually much greater in small churches
- ◆ Simply because we do not have a large pool of members to choose from
- ◆ Therefore there is often a greater need in small churches

GREATER OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW

- ◆ **Larger churches often require a large rotation in its use of members**
- ◆ **Opportunities to preach, teach classes, serve in the public worship may be rare**
- ◆ **One may have the opportunity to be used only once in a long while**

GREATER OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW

- ◆ **Smaller churches use those willing to serve much more frequently**
- ◆ **Out of necessity at times, but can also be by design**
- ◆ **Small churches are often the training ground where leaders for large churches developed their skills.**

SUNDAYS

AREN'T THE
SAME WITHOUT

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**GREATER
OPPORTUNITIES
TO GROW**

- ◆ One's absence is more keenly felt in a small church
- ◆ Especially when needed to fulfill a certain role (e.g., Bible class teacher)
- ◆ One's absence can be overlooked for several weeks in a larger church
- ◆ For those needing encouragement, this is important

SUNDAYS

AREN'T THE
SAME WITHOUT

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**GREATER
OPPORTUNITIES
TO GROW**

- ◆ It is too easy to get lost in a crowd
- ◆ We need brethren who will take notice when we begin to show signs of weakness
- ◆ Galatians 6:1-2
- ◆ **Proportionally speaking, more preachers, teachers, elders, and average members have been developed by small churches than large churches**



THE OBLIGATIONS OF A SMALL CHURCH

- ◆ **NURTURE SENSE OF FAMILY...**
- ◆ Congregationally, by providing opportunities for spiritual fellowship
- ◆ Do this by Bible classes, gospel meetings, etc.



THE OBLIGATIONS OF A SMALL CHURCH

- ◆ visitation programs, to encourage the weak, minister to the sick
- ◆ Individually, by providing opportunities for hospitality
- ◆ inviting others into our homes, going out together



THE OBLIGATIONS OF A SMALL CHURCH

- ◆ getting together for social occasions, such as potlucks
- ◆ **As we seek to nurture our sense of family, we must be careful not to limit our efforts to those in our physical families!!**

THE OBLIGATIONS OF A SMALL CHURCH

- ◆ **PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH...**
- ◆ Training those willing to learn and serve
- ◆ men's classes on serving in public worship, preaching, teaching



THE OBLIGATIONS OF A SMALL CHURCH

- ◆ ladies' classes on teaching ladies, children
- ◆ Utilizing those willing to develop their abilities and talents
- ◆ providing opportunities for men willing to preach, lead singing, etc.
- ◆ likewise for women willing to teach children, other women, etc.



THE OBLIGATIONS OF A SMALL CHURCH

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- ◆ **WATCH FOR STAGNATION...**
 - ◆ It is tempting to want to remain small
 - ◆ Because of the advantages of a small congregation
 - ◆ Its warmth, friendliness, etc.

THE OBLIGATIONS OF A SMALL CHURCH

- ◆ The Lord expects us to grow –
- ◆ **Matthew 13:31-32 and John 15:1-2**
- ◆ We should not be content to remain small
- ◆ We should be seeking to grow both as individuals and as a congregation
- ◆ **If we are not on an upward spiral of growth, we are likely heading downward**

CONCLUSION

- ◆ Again, there are advantages to different sizes in congregations...
- ◆ My point has not been to suggest one size is superior to another
- ◆ My purpose has been to ensure we do not let smallness become a hindrance

CONCLUSION

- ◆ As a small congregation...
- ◆ We need to focus on our strengths, which should lead to growth
- ◆ If we do not, we will likely stagnate, if not die altogether.
- ◆ Focus on our strengths as a small congregation, and it is more likely we will remain healthy when we become a larger congregation