What Is Happening To The Local Church?

Introduction The church refers to the body of Christ. Nothing is wrong with the body of Christ. When Christ comes back, He will take those who comprise His body to heaven with Him. They were washed by the blood of Christ, **Ephesians 5.23**.

\*\*Facts: Many congregations are dying. Sometimes physical death has depleted them. Many cases of losing members spiritually. Like the churches in Revelation they (we) are in danger of losing our first love, of holding to the doctrine of Balaam, of having a Jezebel, of having a name of being alive but are really dead, of becoming lukewarm. Why are churches losing ground?

**I) Because of Preaching!**

**A) Some preachers have lead members astray, 2 Timothy 4.3-4.**

1. Some preachers are not studying the word of God but something else, **2 Timothy 2.15**

2 Read after Calvanist, swallow the 70 A.D. doctrine, feel good religion, etc. resulting in spiritually weak Christians.

**B) Some preaching is to please men and not God, Galatian 1.10**

1. Men who sound good, good presentation, jokes, poems, but not meat.

2. PMA type of preaching, never say anything to stop on toes.

**II) Because There Is A Lack of Leadershipo**

**A) God gave elders the work of overseeing the work of the local congregation, Hebrews 13.17**

1. They are to be admired and respected, it is hard work.

2. Men need to be encouraged to desire the office and qualifications.

**B) They need to fulfill their responsibility. More than taking care of the building and checkbook. 1 Peter 5.2ff.**

1. Refers to feeding the flock, teaching and preaching.

2. Thinking about what the flock needs to grow. To Pastor the flock.

3. Discipline the wayward members.

**C) More than just the elders but also the older Christians, Titus 2.2-6.**

1. Biblical principle of older Christians teaching the younger Christians.

**III) Because Of What Is Happening In Our Homes**

**A) The church was patterned after the home, Ephesians 5.22-27**

1. When our homes were fulfilling their responsibilities the church was growing.

**B) Husbands and wives are to love each other and stay together.**

1. Too many marriages are ending in divorce and separation.

**C) Father are to be involved in rearing their children, Ephesians 6.4.**

1. Many fathers are AWOL. They are busy playing games, going hunting, working.

**IV) Because of Our Work, 1 Timothy 5.8; 2 Thess. 3.10.**

**A) We have allowed work to separate us from God.**

1. Need to ask is it worth it, are we selling our souls, **Luke 12.15, 20**.

2. Young people are often working, need to look for a different job.

**V) Because of Indifference, Revelation 3.15-16**

**A) A worldly attitude toward our obligations to God, Hebrews 4.2-9.**

1. Let others do it, do as little as possible, as little as we can get by with. Many see no obligation to work in the local church.

2. Everybody wants good classes, song leaders, Gospel Meetings, good attendance, but many don’t do anything.

**B) Indifference to those who are lost, John 4.35**

1. Many congregations have gone to housekeeping and not seeking the lost.

**C) Indifference to sin. Not reviled by it. Excuse it or look the other way, Romans 6.1-2.**

1. Learn to tolerate sin,. Preaching the Gospel involves recognizing and hating sin.

Conclusion: These must be corrected before the local church can and will grow.