

Doing My Share

A great reality that we all must face is that we are not here to merely survive we are here to succeed. There is a big difference between getting by and truly succeeding for the Lord. For this to work here we all have some work to do.

It is certainly true that there are many things that you have done already. But it is time to forget those things! It is officially time to move on—because now is now and those achievements are in the past. It is time to forge ahead toward achieving our new goals for today.

It is especially important for all of us to, collectively and individually, set goals and make plans—without careful planning we will never succeed. Let us examine some goals for our congregation. Not for everyone else to do, but for “insert your name here” to do. Of course, there is the understood part of the equation that we make plans in full consideration that time is uncertain and that every day must be treated like our last. Let us open our Bibles and consider how we can make this congregation better.

I Can Help Our Love Grow.

We are nothing without love. Jesus declared that we must love one another (John 13:34). We are to be recognized as His disciples by our love for one another (John 13:35). We love one another because we have a common pathway (Philos). Our commonality is “One Faith”—from the one source of true faith (Romans 10:17). We have in common “One Doctrine” (Teaching) of Jesus Christ (2 John 9). These things put us on a common pathway (Matthew 7:13-14)—a path, on which we will need help, so we need each other and God.

Can our love grow? **YES, from Philos to Agapé!** There is room for improvement in our love. The brethren at Philippi loved one another and still Paul said, “May your love still abound more and more...” (Philippians 1:9). Too often we allow personal conflicts to distract our growth and our love. We must come to terms with these problems (Matthew 5:22-24; 1 Peter 3:7). Resolve them and put them in the past (Ephesians 4:25-32). To do this you can simply let it go (1 Peter 4:8). Romans 12:18 *“As much as depends on you live peaceably with all men”* You can go to the one with whom you have a problem (Matthew 18:15-17). Go to gain them back.

We must all grow in love. We can do it, but it must start with “insert your name here.” “I” will get to know you more and love you more (Romans 12:9-15). We can grow in love.

I Can Help Us Grow In Number.

Why do we need to grow in number? If we are not growing, we are dying (John 15:1-8). Bear more fruit (a continuous process, a perpetual statement). We cannot be satisfied to let others slip away into condemnation (Romans 3:23; 6:23). They need the gift of God, and you know how they can get it. We are ethically bound to try to help them (Mark 16:16).

What can I do to help this congregation grow in number? First, live a life of faith (Romans 12:1-2). Use your life as proof of God’s perfect/livable will so that you are constantly setting the right example: Content, godly, loving, and kind: all the things that Christians are to be (2 Peter 1:5-10).

Then, follow the two most important rules of personal evangelism: **Conversation:** Engage in a dialogue (Anything you have in common is the starting place). **Invitation:** Invite them to attend services with you. If each of us is determined to invite someone to each service, just think of the growth potential we could have.

I Can Simply Do More and More.

We all have a role (Ephesians 4:13-16). We can be determined to take on a greater share of this work. Personal growth is the only thing that will cause collective congregational growth (Hebrews 5:12-14). Our daily service to God will be more apparent when we take on these actions with determinant effort: I will study more (2 Timothy 2:15). I will pray more (1 Thessalonians 5:17). I will spend more time helping my brethren (Romans 12:9-15). You may not be assisting them in any particular thing except for making it easier to be what they should be—surround your brethren with positive influence.

I will look for things to do in this work. There are many things for all of us to do: Anything from visit or a note for one of our ill members to perhaps sweeping the walk or organizing the hymnbook racks. Just ask if you cannot find anything to do.

If each one determines to be the one who is willing to do. This work will grow in love, number, and service. But it is up to “insert your name here”. Each of us must work to our fullest ability in order for this congregation to be at its fullest ability. Let us determine to work to God’s honor and glory. Take a moment to imagine this building filled to capacity with men, women, and children who are willing to travel the one road home. Now let us stop imagining and make it happen.