

## ***What Will Build a Strong Church?***

Not sensationalism! Not gimmicks! Not more committees, mere programs or a “fun and games” emphasis! These things may be “right-on” for civic clubs, social clubs and country clubs, but not for the Lord’s church! What does it take to build a strong church? I believe with all my heart that the following things are essential!

- **Strong Bible preaching and teaching!** God’s Word, when it is disseminated plainly, forcefully, uncompromisingly and yet kindly, will **build up!** Paul said, “**I commend you unto God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up...**” (Acts 20:32).
- **Exemplary leadership!** Men who make themselves “**examples to the flock**” and who are careful in tending it (1 Peter 5:2-3) will build a strong church. To grow, the church must have quality leadership—men who know how to lead and will do so!
- **Christian living on the part of every member!** Unimpeachable conduct clearly evidenced in the lives of Christians will illuminate the way for many in the realm of darkness (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:15).
- **Congregational warmth and love!** The fellowship of the Lord’s church should be so sweet and precious that the whole community takes notice and observes, “See how they love each other!” Without this, a congregation will never be what God would have it to be!
- **Compassionate hearts!** The church of Christ needs to be known as the most tender-hearted bunch of people in all the world, ready and willing to help all, but especially those of the household of faith (Galatians 6:9-10).
- **Evangelistic fervor!** The emphasis of the early church was soul-winning! The church will grow when we cease not to “**teach and to preach Jesus as the Christ**” every day, wherever we have opportunity (Acts 5:42)!
- **An “I want to serve” attitude permeating the congregation!** People serving the Lord because they love Him, and they want to serve—and not out of a spirit of drudgery—will build a strong church.
- **An atmosphere of happiness, friendliness, cordiality and hospitality!** No stranger should ever come into the midst of the Lord’s church without being graciously greeted and welcomed by a happy, friendly membership! We must reach out to others and not just “visit” with friends only.

It is my conviction that these ingredients will build a strong church! I pray fervently that all eight points will become a reality in every congregation more than ever before!

*By Maxie B. Boren*