



The Rest of the Pattern

The Growing Church

The Early Church was Growing in Numbers

- Examples: Acts 2:41; Acts 4:4; Acts 5:14

Numerical Growth in the First Century

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. - Acts 2:41

However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. - Acts 4:4

And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women - Acts 5:14

The Early Church was Growing in Numbers

- Examples: Acts 2:41; Acts 4:4; Acts 5:14
- God gives the increase – 1 Cor. 3:6

1 Corinthians 3:6

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

The Early Church was Growing in Numbers

- Examples: Acts 2:41; Acts 4:4; Acts 5:14
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- Is the Blue Ridge church of Christ growing in numbers?

The Early Church was Growing in Numbers

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- Is the Blue Ridge church of Christ growing in numbers? YES

The Early Church was Growing in Influence

- Examples: Acts 2:47-48; Acts 5:13; Acts 17:6

The Growing Influence of the First Century Church

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and **having favor with all the people**. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. - Acts 2:46-47

Yet none of the rest dared join them, but **the people esteemed them highly**. - Acts 5:13

But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These **who have turned the world upside down** have come here too. - Acts 17:6

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- Not earthly, but spiritual influence

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- Is the Blue Ridge church of Christ growing in spiritual influence?

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- Not earthly, but spiritual influence
- Is the Blue Ridge church of Christ growing in spiritual influence?
- Am I as a Christian growing in spiritual influence?

Growing in Spiritual Influence Checklist

- How many people of my acquaintance know that I am a Christian?
- How many people know that I care about them?
- How many have I engaged in a conversation regarding spiritual matters?
- How many have received an invitation from me to attend services or participate in a Bible study?
- How many have I taught the gospel?
- How many would identify me as a good moral person who has integrity, and is available to help others?
- How many people have been blessed by the practice of my Christian faith?
- Are these numbers increasing, staying the same or decreasing?

The Early Church was Growing in Maturity

- The Pattern: Eph. 4:7-16

Ephesians 4:7-16

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ... 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ

Ephesians 4:7-16

15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

The Early Church was Growing in Maturity

- The Pattern: Eph. 4:7-16
- Is the Blue Ridge church of Christ growing in spiritual maturity?

The Early Church was Growing in Maturity

- The Pattern: Eph. 4:7-16
- Is the Blue Ridge church of Christ growing in spiritual maturity?
- Am I as a Christian growing in spiritual maturity?

Growing Spiritual Maturity Checklist

- Am I more likely to make decisions that are primarily based on God's will in my life?
- Am I more consistent in turning away from temptation?
- Am I bearing more of the fruit of the spirit?
- Am I growing in total dependence on Jesus, and full confidence that I can do all things through Him?
- Am knit and joined together with the rest of the body?
- Am I supplying what is needed for the growth of the body?
- Am I effectively working and doing my share?
- Am I causing growth of the body and edifying it with love?
- Are these qualities increasing or decreasing in my life?

The Early Church was Growing in Maturity

- The Pattern: Eph. 4:7-16
- Is the Blue Ridge church of Christ growing in spiritual maturity?
- Am I as a Christian growing in spiritual maturity?
- Am I helping my brothers and sisters grow in spiritual maturity?

The Growth of each Christian



The Growth of the Church

