

“Keeping Your Church Out of Trouble and Trouble Out of Your Church”

Rev. David J. Bauer – Bible Related Ministries

God wants your church to go on growing. He wants to extend your borders.
Some musts for a growing church:

Vision – Where there is no vision the people perish. Gain a vision for your church. This is a part of faith (Heb. 11:1). If you cannot see your church as successful how can it be?

Hard Work – Nothing works unless we do. There is so much work to do in the ministry. No one is sufficient. But we do not punch a clock. We can not work too hard. Good sermon preparation takes work. Long hours, preparation, prayer, etc. even when we do not feel like it (Eccl. 9:10).

Visitation, Soul Winning – This is especially true of the pastor. If the pastor does not visit, neither will the people. Do not allow other things to take priority (Prov. 11:30).

Love for the People – You must love all the people, the easy to love ones as well as the hard to love ones. Ask God to enable you to love all the people in your congregation (John 13:35).

Use Saturation to Advertise the Church – Use newspapers, store windows, town hall, funeral directors, local directories, social events, radio, television, tracts, target families in the areas as prospects (Luke 16:8).

Make your Church a Power-Conscious Assembly – You can be *problem-conscious* or *power-conscious*. Get the hearts and minds of the people off the problems and onto the great power of the living God. Emphasize what God has recently done in our midst, instead of airing only the problems. Get your church power conscious (Ephes. 3:20-21)!

Prayer – Pray the problems through instead of trying to solve them by your own hand! God can solve the problems that we cannot solve. Use specific board meetings for prayer instead of board business. Pray before special times, VBS, missions conferences, outreach, Christmas, Easter, vacation, etc. (Ephes. 6:18).



Bible Related Ministries

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How to Keep Trouble Out of Your Church

2 Cor. 10:4-5 Ephes. 6:11-18

Precautions for Keeping Ourselves Out of Trouble:

Turn a deaf ear to negative gossip – (Eccl. 7:21) We do not need to react to every word of gossip said, nor defend ourselves against every false accusation.

Never say anything negative about a member in the presence of another member – (Prov. 11:13) Do not let gossip or malicious gossip come from your lips.

Always keep trouble confined to the smallest number of people possible – (Prov. 10:19) Do not tell anyone who does not need to know. Keep a closed mouth posture. A congregation should be so active in its love toward each other that trouble when it breaks out can be handled privately.

- Never take anything to the board that cannot be handled by pastoral counsel –
- Never take anything to the congregation that cannot be handled by the church board –

Never put anything in writing that accuses another brother or sister – (Matt. 18:15-20) Go to the offended brother or sister, and work it out one on one. We live in a world of duplicators, emails, attachments, face book, etc.

Go quickly to anyone who is offended, care for it and try to put the offence behind you – (Ephes. 4:26) Deal with problems quickly, and face to face. Don't let it stew, making a mountain out of a molehill. Deal with it prayerfully, personally and practically.

Be quick to accept blame when you deserve it – Be quick to apologize, to say I was wrong.

Do not preach about the grievances of a minority of the congregation – You expose the remainder of the congregation to the problems in one corner of the congregation of which they are ignorant, and cheat them of the help they need for that day.

Preach often on the cross – Focus on the cross, the Gospel. We can do a lot of preaching without preaching the Gospel (1 Cor. 1:18). It is very difficult to go around with your feelings on your sleeve, when we think of Christ crucified for our offences, His love, His trial, His return. He is coming at any moment (immanency).

Equip the Church to do the work of the ministry – (Ephes. 4:11-13) God intends that the people of the church be so busy caring for the saints, winning souls, teaching, doing acts of kindness, etc. that they have no time for problems.

Get busy winning souls – (Prov. 11:30) Generally a soul-winning church is a rejoicing church and trouble free. The people need to know that God is working. Let your congregation know this is a soul-winning congregation and not a fighting congregation.

Focus on the victories and be a person of praise – (Phil. 4:8) You be the praising one, praising God: for music, weather, souls saved, the people in attendance, the ministry, etc.



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