

Growth Of The Church (1)

Acts 2:37-47

The Church Grew

The church in the first century had a phenomenal growth - **Matthew 13:31-32**

Twelve men preached - **Acts 2:41; 4:4; 6:7; 8:4; Colossians 1:23**

What was the reason for such growth of the church?

Conviction In Regard To Truth

The disciples were convinced they had the truth - **John 8:31-32; 17:17; 1Corinthians 15:1-2**

Because of this conviction, their mouths could not be stopped - **Romans 1:16; Acts 5:29; 7:51**

Not by geographical distance (Paul's journeys)

Diligence In Teaching

Diligence - steady, earnest, and energetic application and effort - **Acts 5:42; 20:31**

The early disciples were persistent - **Acts 13:46; 26:28-29**

The gospel was refused by many

In selling the law of averages says if you knock on enough doors you will have some success

Courage In Persecution

Short time after church established opposition arose

At first it was mild but became very severe

Disciples fled Jerusalem for their lives **Acts 4,5**

Persecution did not seal their lips - **Acts 8:4**

What do we do today when someone says something about our teaching and practice?

Purity In Life

Many great principles of conduct contained in the Gospel

These principles of conduct stood out in the lives of early Christians - **1Peter 2:9; 4:4; Titus 2:14; 1John 2:15-17; 2Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:3-6**

Concern For Others

When someone made a mistake those who were strong helped them - **Galatians 6:1-2**

However, they were not only concerned about them when they made a mistake. - **Acts 12:5;**

Philippians 2:25-30; Romans 15:1-2

Can We Grow?

Lord's church should grow today as it did in New Testament times

We have the same teaching (spiritual food) that the early church had

The only hindrance to growth is human element (That's us)

The things we have talked about involve the human element

Next lesson will continue to explore reasons for growth of the early church so that we can make application to our conduct today.

However, if you are not a member of the Lord's church, then you have not begun to grow spiritually because you have not been born into God's family yet and you cannot grow until after you are born!

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