

## WHAT IT TAKES TO BUILD A GREAT CHURCH

**Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:16, 3:20-21; 4:7-12**

Int: Around the world some congregations are building great churches. Others are just laying brick! In this letter Paul noted five things required to build a great church. The congregation must emphasize the

### PREEMINENCE OF THE SAVIOR 1:22-23

Paul was talking about the Lordship of Jesus! Many churches are willing to let Jesus be Lord of Sunday morning worship and an occasional revival service but prefer to run the rest of the show themselves. But the Bible says God made Christ head of ALL THINGS to the church. Letting Jesus be Lord will solve every problem any congregations faces.

A great church is one where Jesus is Lord!

### PRIORIY OF SOUL WINNING 2:19-22

It is unnecessary to do a word by word study to get the main point. The spirit of this passage concerns growing a church by adding to it one believer after another. To build a great church a congregation must give top priority to reaching others for Jesus. A church may have many ministries; a great church ha only one mission! Any church whose main business is not reaching people for and winning people to Jesus is not a great church. It may not even be a church at all! Adding converts to the body of Christ is part of the franchise of a church. The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing!

A great church is one whose business is winning people to the Lord!

### POWER OF GOD'S SPIRIT 3:16

Paul's subject was power. Not just any kind of power but a special kind, namely the power of the Holy Spirit. To build a great church, something must be going on with it that can be explained only in terms of God's power!

A great church is one where God's power is displayed over and again!

### PRAISE AMONG THE SAINTS 3:20-21

This passage calls for the congregation to give great glory and praise to Jesus! Great churches have worship services marked by joy and an air of celebration. Save silence for the funeral home. It will be the death of a church.

A great church is one filled with warmth, life and the free praise of the Lord!

### PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVERS 4:-12

This phrase means all believers have both *equal rights* and *equal responsibilities* in the church. The idea that a congregation hires a staff to do the work of the ministry is most unbiblical. God gave the church pastor/teachers "to equip the saints for the work of the ministry." No comma belongs there.

Let a congregation say to its pastor and staff, "Get on your knees and in the Book until you get a word from God and a heaven-sent vision, then feed us and lead us and we will do the work of the ministry," and that church is on its way to greatness!

A great church is one where every member engages in ministry!

Con: What are you doing here? Building a great church? Or just laying brick?