

Church Growth

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I. Introduction.

- A. The church can grow too big too quick.
- B. We must dig roots downward in order to bear fruit upward.
- C. There came a time for the church to dig roots down. (Acts 9:31)

II. Growth in understanding.

- A. The early church began to understand the global nature of the body and the wonder that it was to be a part of it.
- B. The church is a "gathering" or "assembly." It is a called out body. (Acts 19)
- C. The church contains Christ's representatives left in a wilderness society. It is the "salt of the earth."
- D. The church is Jesus' means of governing society.

III. Growth in maturity.

- A. The church was edified or built up. (Matthew 16:18)
- B. Edification is not talking about numbers but maturity.
- C. Vital fellowship occurs when the church begins to draw closer together and meet one another's needs.

IV. Growth in impact.

- A. The church that is edified gets multiplied.
- B. We belong to a church to be a part of what God is doing.
- C. The church went about in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Spirit.

Application questions:

1. How does an understanding of the nature of the church help us know our role in it?

2. What are some practical ways you can edify believers in your circles?

3. How would you respond to someone who says that the focus of the church should be on evangelism?
