

Overcoming Challenges As A Congregation

As a congregation grows, it is likely to face various challenges...

We must remain "steadfast" - **1Corinthians 15:58**

How can we remain steadfast in the face of Satan's challenges?

We Must Remember What Our Work Is

Equip the saints for ministry (Edification)... - **Ephesians 4:11-12**

This is how the body continues to grow - **Ephesians 4:15-16**

One of the main reasons we assemble together - **Hebrews 10:24-25**

Are you doing what you can to help other Christians to grow?

Sound forth the gospel of Christ (Evangelism)... - **1Thessalonians 1:8**

Through individual and collective efforts, we must "sow the seed"

Are you doing what you can to spread the gospel?

Provide for needy saints (Benevolence)... - **1Corinthians 16:1-2**

Are you doing what you can to see that needs are being met?

The work of the local church goes beyond providing a place for worship from week to week. We should be preparing ourselves to work!

We Must Live Above Pettiness

Even good churches can be hindered by pettiness... - **Philippians 4:2-3**

When churches lose sight of their primary purpose, they are ripe for being torn apart by selfishness, gossip, and factionalism

Must keep a proper sense of proportion. We must see the importance of the Lord's work in comparison to our own personal problems - **Philippians 2:1-5**

Sad to have congregation hindered by pettiness. Yet many allow it to keep them from growing.

We Must Maintain Gratitude For Our Blessings

We have much for which to be thankful...

As individuals - We have many physical blessings; families, friends, homes, health, freedoms, jobs

We have many spiritual blessings - Salvation in Christ, the forgiveness of sins, peace of mind, love of God, the strength of the Holy Spirit, the hope of heaven

As a congregation - Free from turmoil, free to worship, filled with love and unity, blessed with good facilities, signs of spiritual growth, Potential for both individual and congregational growth

We should be noted for our "attitude of gratitude"...

Note how often Paul exhorted the Colossians to be thankful

Colossians 1:11-12; 2:6-7; 3:15,17; 4:2

Becoming "unthankful" is a step toward depravity - **Romans 1:21**

It is a sign of perilous times - **2Timothy 3:1-5**

Are we thankful for our blessings or consumed by our difficulties?

There Are Many Challenges That Congregations May Face...

Such as persecution for the cause of Christ

Or natural calamities that may devastate our community

But in most cases, even those challenges can be met and overcome if we...

Remember what our work is

Live above pettiness

Maintain gratitude for our blessings

With a will to do what the Lord desires of us, and with the "attitude of gratitude" lifting us above any sense of pettiness that might drag us down, let us do our part to answer the prayer of Paul - **Ephesians 3:21**