

What Makes A Congregation Strong?

Introduction:

- * Everyone wants a strong congregation
- * It will not happen accidentally or by chance
- * No perfect congregation (many mentioned in the N.T. were not either)
- * New members will bring in elements of weakness periodically
- * But, any congregation of Christ can be strong!
- * How? A strong congregation will have members that are:

1. Spiritually Minded - Romans 8:5-6

- * It will bring about life and peace
- * It is the nature of the church
- * It is the higher plane

2. Concerned About Wayward Members - Galatians 6:1-2

- * Want no one to be lost
- * Care about the souls of all

3. Involved In Its Work - Ephesians 4:11-12, 15-16

- * Recognize there is no separate clergy
- * All are priests!

4. Knowledgeable - Romans 15:14

- * Know the BOOK
- * Known as people of the BOOK
- * Key to continued strength

5. Dependable - III John 5-8

- * Can count on them to be at all the services
- * Trustworthy with friendship; loyal and true with confidential matters
- * Predictable

6. Liberal Givers - II Corinthians 8:1-5

- * A pitch-in mentality
- * Not simply giving a donation to the church - but sharing in their Christian family's work

7. Willing To Contend For The Faith - Jude 3

- * Willing to stand up and be counted
- * Defend the truth
- * Not fellowshipping false doctrines, but exposing them

8. Lovers Of One Another - I Thessalonians 4:9-10

- * Since all are brothers and sisters, they are tenderly affectionate toward their siblings
- * Given to hospitality

9. Striving To Maintain Peace - Romans 14:17-19

- * Blessed are the peacemakers - Matthew 5
- * Wisdom from above is seen - James 3:17-18

10. Seeking To Build Up The Others - I Corinthians 14:12,26

- * Desire improvements by all
- * Go extra mile to promote others
- * Know the congregation needs every member to be strong

Conclusion: The strength of a congregation is in the obedience to **all** the above by **all** the members.