

*ACTS

The Continuing Work of Jesus

*Acts 2:47

Biblical Church Growth

⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

⁴³ Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.

⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people.

And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

(Acts 2:42-47)

Biblical Church Growth

➤ *"The Lord was adding..."*

1. God's Sovereignty

- it is the Lord alone who saves and grows His church (1 Cor. 3:5-7)
- the Lord is powerfully at work to grow His church; it is His promise and unstoppable purpose

Biblical Church Growth

➤ *"The Lord was adding..."*

2. God's Means

- the proclamation of the apostles' teaching (i.e. the gospel) (cf. Acts 4:4; 6:7; 12:24)
- everyday evangelism engendered by the radical, loving nature of the Spirit-created community

Biblical Church Growth

➤ *“...to their number...those being saved”*

1. Meaningful Membership

- believers are always added to the local church; no solitary Christians
- being “added” means a devotion to the teaching and fellowship of the church

Biblical Church Growth

➤ *“...to their number...those being saved”*

2. Exclusive Membership

- only believers (those who are “saved”) are added to the local church
- all those who are saved are received into the community of believers without discrimination

Biblical Church Growth

Q: What if we are not experiencing biblical church growth?

- honestly examine the health of our body and our commitment to gospel proclamation and evangelism
- beseech the Lord of the harvest both to save and send workers into the harvest (Matt. 9:38)