I Want the Church to Grow–But Do I Want Any More People? #6

Introduction:

1. I want to examine myself to see if I am following God’s will or my will.

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified (2 Corinthians 13:5).

1. I WANT THE CHURCH TO GROW BECAUSE GOD WANTS TO SEE PEOPLE SAVED–WHICH WILL CAUSE THE CHURCH TO GROW.
   1. God adds saved people to the church each day, which causes the church to grow.

Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:47).

* 1. God wants people saved.

“The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

“But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live. Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?” says the Lord God, “and not that he should turn from his ways and live?

“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord God. “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel?

“For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord God. “Therefore turn and live!” (Ezekiel 18:20-23, 30-32).

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).

“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved (John 3:17).

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:3, 4).

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men (Titus 2:11).

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone (Hebrews 2:9).

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

1. **BUT**–I MAY NOT WANT PEOPLE WHO ARE SICK, HURTING, DIRTY, OR WHO WOULD INTERRUPT MY SCHEDULE.

But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side” (Luke 10:29-32).

* 1. Children. Matthew 18:1-11

Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven. And He laid His hands on them and departed from there (Matthew 19:13-15).

As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby (1 Peter 2:2).

* 1. Blind man. Mark 10:46-52
  2. People who were hungry. Mark 6:30-44
     1. “~~Jesus always fed people first, then taught them~~;” — not here.
     2. They were tired.
     3. The circumstances were not right (deserted place).
     4. Lack of time.
     5. Lack of money.
  3. People beneath my dignity. James 2:1-9
     1. Poor.
     2. Dirty.

Conclusion:

1. I want to the church to grow, but do I want any more people?
   1. How many?
   2. What kind?
   3. Do I want more people in the church if God will check with me before He lets them in?
2. What does God want?
   1. All who are burdened with sin.

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

* 1. All who want to be saved.

And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely (Revelation 22:17).

1. How will I cooperate with Him?
2. What is your response to God’s call?
   1. Are you weary?
   2. Do you have the desire?
   3. Will you come?