

ATTRIBUTES OF A HEALTHY CONGREGATION

Revelation 2:8-11 NKJV

8 “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

9 “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

11 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.”

Revelation 3:7-13 (NKJV)

7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, “These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”:

8 “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

9 Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie— indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

13 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

The following does not & would not make
a Healthy Congregation.

1. A congregation is not **healthy** because it has a beautiful building for worship.
2. A congregation is not **healthy** because it has a dynamic speaker as a preacher.
3. A congregation is not **healthy** because it makes a significant contribution each Lord's day.
4. A congregation is not **healthy** because it has a large membership.

Most people use these parameters, but unfortunately, they are incorrect yardsticks with which a **healthy** congregation should be measured.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (NKJV)

1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom, declaring to you the testimony of God.

2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.

4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Revelation 3:14–19 (NKJV)

14 “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

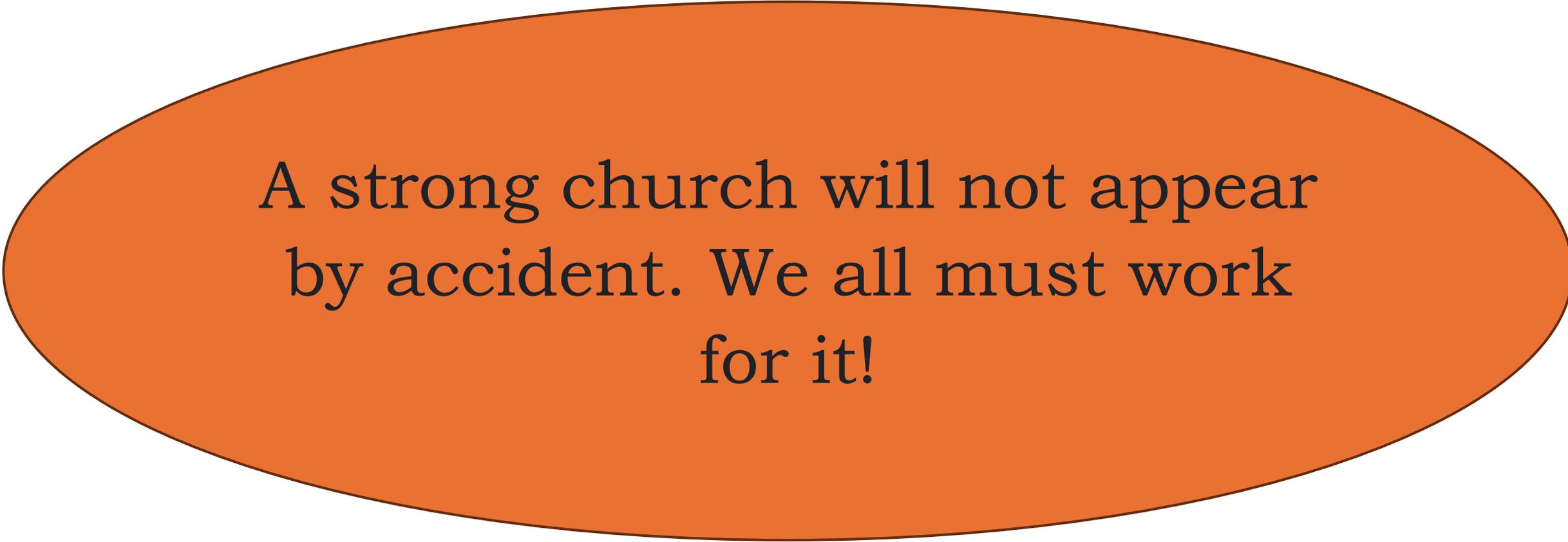
15 “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

17 Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anooint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent.

An orange oval with a dark brown border, containing the text "A strong church will not appear by accident. We all must work for it!".

A strong church will not appear
by accident. We all must work
for it!

Consider with me the following points...

1. A healthy congregation comprises spiritually minded members.

Romans 8:5-6 NKJV

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. **6** For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

2. A healthy congregation is blessed with loving and caring leaders who are concerned about active and wayward members (Acts 20:28; Gal. 6:1; Heb. 13:17).

Galatians 6:1 (NKJV)

“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”

Hebrews 13:17 (NKJV)

“Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.”

3. A healthy congregation will have members involved in the work of the Church.

1 Peter 4:10-11 NKJV

10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

4. A healthy congregation is strong when members are fully able to admonish one another.

Romans 15:14 NKJV

"Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another."

4a. When members continuously feed on the word of God.

Acts 20:32 (NKJV)

“So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

5. A healthy congregation has members who are faithful and dependable.

3 John 1-4 (NKJV)

1 The Elder, To the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth: 2 Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. 3 For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.

3 John 1-4 (NKJV)

4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

6. A healthy congregation has members who will stand up for what is biblically correct.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

2 Timothy 2:1-5 (NKJV)

1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

Conclusion

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV)

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.