

VISION 2001
PART 5
“BALANCING LEARNING, RELATING, AND EVANGELIZING EXPERIENCES”
ACTS 2:41-47
FEBRUARY 4, 2001

INTRO

Ephesians 4:11-16

- ◆ Paul develops the doctrine of corporate spiritual maturity.
- ◆ The goal of corporate spiritual maturity is Christlikeness (13b).
 - ➔ Christlikeness is expressed by FAITH (12-13a).
 - ➔ Christlikeness is expressed by HOPE (14-15).
 - ➔ Christlikeness is expressed by LOVE (16).

If faith, hope, and love are the marks of a growing and maturing church, then how do we produce these qualities?

MESSAGE

All Christians need a balance of these vital experiences in order to grow in faith, hope, and love (Acts 2:41-47).

- ◆ Vital learning experiences with the Word of God (41-42a).
 - ➔ The teacher – John 14:26; 15:26; 16:12-13.
 - ➔ The emphasis on the basics – 1 Cor. 4:17; 1 Thes. 3:2; Titus 2:1
- ◆ Vital relational experiences with God and with one another (42b-47a).
 - ➔ They ate together for the purpose of fellowship (Jude 12; 2 Peter 2:13; 1 Cor. 11:17-34).
 - ➔ They prayed together in the context of relationships (Rom. 12:10-13; 1 Thes. 5:14-18; James 5:13-16; 1 Pet. 4:7-10).
 - ➔ They shared their material possessions (44-45; Matt. 10:42)
 - ➔ They praised God together (47a; Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:18-19).
- ◆ Vital witnessing experiences with the unsaved world (47b).
 - ➔ The believers’ lifestyle and community of love became the bridge that enabled them to share the gospel with their unsaved friends (John 13:34-35).

- ➔ The Spirit-created unity of a family of brothers and sisters enjoying each other is a powerful attracting force in the unsaved community (John 17:20-21,23)

LIFE RESPONSE

We need to STRUCTURE the ministry of Grace Bible Church to accomplish all these biblical purposes. We must maintain BALANCE.

1. The problems of churches that emphasize only Bible teaching.
2. The problems of churches that emphasize only relationships.
3. The problems of churches that emphasize only evangelism.

God's plan for every local church is to have structures that provide a healthy balance in all three experiences. When this balance is maintained, then the church can grow in faith, hope, and love.

However, whether or not it will grow depends on your participation.