

Remnant Life Church
July 7, 2024
Habits of a Healthy Church
Part 2
Romans 15:1-7

How can a church or ministry start and STAY healthy?

Must all churches, at some point, fail or, perhaps even worse, become wholly ineffective

- Must they struggle with maintaining a loving, positive, godly, and biblical perspective?

What can we do to guard this house?

- We all share a responsibility in building and maintaining what God began here almost 12 years ago

READ – Romans 15:1-7

- 1. Live in consideration for each other (v 1)**
 - a. Edifying or building up of others
 - b. Deferring to someone else
 - c. Paul writes in the first verse that it is not about pleasing ourselves
 - d. We read in **John 13:35** Jesus said to His disciples that the world would know we follow Him, have been changed by Him, by the fact that we love one another
- 2. Please your neighbor (v 2)**
 - a. Another way to say that is to honor your neighbor
 - b. Why do we do that?
 - c. Paul answers that it is for their good and to build them up
 - d. Our desire, as children of God within this family, should be to please one another, to benefit and build up one another
- 3. The study of God's Word (v 4)**
 - a. Why would this be so important?
 - i. Because it is in God's Word that we are given the blueprint for how to live a life that honors God
 - b. Paul writes specifically of the importance of the Old Testament
 - i. Paul had just quoted **Psalms 69:9** in verse 3, so he emphasizes the importance of all God's Word
 - ii. He did this because the words of the entirety of the Scripture that spoke the truth to the people of his day, just as it does to us today
 - c. It is the Word of God that will keep a church on track with how to live life as a man or woman who has been transformed by Jesus Christ
 - i. Read through the letters and epistles of Paul, John and Peter to help guide your words and actions
 - ii. The truths are timeless, not swayed by the cultural or societal "moral values."

- d. What will the Word give to us as a church?
 - i. Endurance and encouragement
 - 1. **Phil 3:14** – *I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*
 - 2. The Christian life, both individually and corporately, is a marathon not a sprint
 - ii. God's Word also gives us hope
 - 1. Life should be about realism, but not pessimism
 - 2. **Col. 1:20** – *Jesus is our hope of glory*
 - a. Hope is not outside of faith
 - b. It is a firm trust in the perfect will of God

4. **Desire to live in Unity and Harmony** (v 5)

- a. Because of our endurance and encouragement, there is unity
- b. Unity within a church is a powerful adhesive that will ensure health
 - i. Satan desires to bring division
 - ii. That is why his greatest success stories involve the fracturing of churches, families, lives, hearts, and minds
- c. Unity is at the core of a church that has surrendered fully to Jesus with hearts and minds that are bathed in humility
 - i. The power expressed in the importance of unity is illustrated by the giant sequoia trees of California, which tower as much as 300 feet above the ground. These majestic giants have unusually shallow root systems that reach out in all directions to capture the greatest amount of surface moisture. Their intertwining roots from adjacent trees provide support for each other against the storms. That is why these great giants usually grow in clusters. Seldom will you see a redwood standing alone because high winds would quickly uproot it! Think how the world would be influenced and impacted if His church was similarly united as these marvelous sequoia trees!
- d. At the heart of unity is humility
 - i. If all that we do here is done with a servant's heart then unity will flourish
 - ii. **John 13** – Jesus washes the feet of His disciples as an act of servant leadership and humility
 - iii. In Matt 20 Jesus is teaching the parable of the workers in the vineyard
 - 1. The point of the lesson was that the first will be last and the last will be first
 - 2. IOW what we think is so important here is often of little value in the Kingdom
 - 3. So too that is true in a healthy church
 - a. Our goals should never be to be noticed or even thanked
 - b. Serve one another and, in that humble mind set, serve God

5. **Follow the example of Jesus** (v 5-6)

- a. Jesus created a type of church in the choosing of and time with His 12 disciples
 - i. Think about who He selected

- ii. There could not have been a more mismatched collection of men from all walks of life
 - 1. He had 4 fishermen – the roughest, crudest, uneducated, lower working class of the time
 - 2. A tax collector – hated by the Jews for working with and for Rome
 - 3. A zealot – a professional anarchist attempting to overthrow the Roman government through acts of aggression and insurrection
- iii. Yet they all turned from their former lives, were transformed by the renewing of their minds, and followed Jesus’ example of sharing the love of God and the coming kingdom for the rest of their lives
- iv. We all have the responsibility of not only living that way ourselves but pointing those in our lives to Jesus as well
- b. The same is true for this church
 - i. Our eyes, our minds, and our actions are fixed on Jesus
 - ii. Jesus hated sin, but He loved the sinners and always desired for their lives to be changed
 - 1. That is our goal here as well
 - 2. For every person who worships here to know the transformative power of God’s love seen in the actions of us, His children

And so, what can you expect to find here at Remnant Life Church?

- We are not perfect by any means
 - No church is
 - Because when and where there are people, there will be failures, shortcomings, and mistakes
 - But what is it that we desire to be the experience of every person who enters this room each Sunday?
- 1. Sense and know the presence of God
 - a. First, He tells us that where two or more are gathered together in His name, He will be in our midst (**Math 18:20**)
 - b. Second, because we ask Him to come and be here
- 2. You will be taught the Word of God in its totality and without compromise
 - a. All of the Bible is the Word of God not just what we are comfortable with or makes us feel good (problem with Osteen)
 - b. We will not give in to the pressure of our culture or political change and control
- 3. You will be loved unconditionally
 - a. It does not matter where you have been or what you have done
 - b. It does not matter where your life is in this moment
 - c. It does not matter how much or little money you give
 - d. It does not matter what you can do for the church
 - e. You will be loved, but love is not agreement with or the dismissing of sin
- 4. You will be safe
 - a. To defer to one another and live in consideration means we will stand with you
 - b. We will have your back

- c. We will defend you in the face of attack even when the circumstances may be unfair or unjust
 - d. We will gently encourage you to walk in a path of righteousness and forgiveness
5. You will be prayed for
- a. Prayer for your good and well-being
 - b. Prayer for your blessing and increase
 - c. Prayer for your growth and maturing walk in the Lord
 - d. Prayer for you wherever you go
 - i. You must be where God wants you to be
 - ii. Stay with us but when it is time to go you will be loved, encouraged, prayed for, and always have a place to come to and be welcomed with open arms

Following the example of Jesus at Remnant Life means we will never compromise, and we will always love.