

Local Evangelism

Introduction:

A. By and large, churches of Christ today are failing to reach the lost.

According to Flavil Yeakley and Mac Lynn of David Lipscomb, whereas the church of Christ was the fastest growing religious body in the US from 1945 to 1965, from 1965 to 1980 the church actually lost membership, and there are more people who call themselves members of the church of Christ who do not attend anywhere than who do attend (**Why Churches Grow**. iv, v, 1).

B. The church in Jerusalem is the pattern for local church evangelism. - Acts 2:41,47; 4:4; 5:14; 6:7

C. What can we learn from the church in Jerusalem about local evangelism?

I. The church was composed of members who were truly converted and faithful to Christ. - Acts 2:41-42

II. They attracted others to Christ by their:

A. mutual love - Acts 2:44-45

B. unity - Acts 2:46-47

C. godly lives - Acts 5:1-11,14

III. They used every scriptural means available to preach the word. - Acts 5:42

IV. They let preachers preach and teach the word rather than be tied down with mundane duties. - Acts 6:1-2; cf. 2 Timothy 1:11

V. They met and vanquished false teachers in public controversy. - Acts 6:9-10

VI. They let no obstacles hinder them from preaching the word. - Acts 8:1-4

VII. The only organization they employed in the work of evangelism was the local church. - Acts 11:22

Conclusion:

A. If we want to have success in reaching the lost locally, we need to follow the original pattern, the most successful local church in the history of God's people at reaching the lost, the church in Jerusalem.

B. Now, will we put these principles into practice or be content to drift along while our friends and neighbors are lost?