ELEMENTS THAT MAKE A CONGREGATION SPIRITUALLY STABLE AND STRONG
Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION
1. If a congregation is NOT spiritually stable and strong it is a failure, regardless of any other thing that may be said about it.
2. The Lord's church in any community must stand on the solid footing of truth if it is to be stable -- John 8:32; I Tim. 3:15.

I. THE SIZE OF A CONGREGATION HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ITS STABILITY
1. A congregation may be very small and at the same time be very weak.
2. A church may be very large and be very weak.
3. Size does not count in the eyes of God, as it does many times in the eyes of men -- Deut. 7:7.
   (1) God looks on the heart.
   (2) God can do great things with a few -- Jonathan said, "For there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few" -- I Sam. 14:6.
4. Men, many times, think that just because a church is large in number it is very strong.
   (1) Many large churches will not stand for all the truth.
   (2) Many large churches have many weak and spiritually sick members.
5. So, size has nothing to do with the spiritual stability of a church.

II. THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF A CONGREGATION DOES NOT GUARANTEE ITS SPIRITUAL STABILITY.
1. The church at Laodicea was rich, but was not spiritually stable -- Rev. 3: 14 - 19.
2. Many congregations that have a lot of money are spiritually weak.
3. The churches of Macedonia were in "DEEP POVERTY", but they were spiritually stable -- 2 Cor. 8:1 -5.
4. The church at Smyrna -- Rev. 2: 8 - 10.
5. Poor churches are richer in faith many times than the rich -- James 2:5.

III. THE POPULARITY OF A CONGREGATION DOES NOT MEAN IT HAS SPIRITUAL STABILITY.
1. The church at Sardis was popular -- they had a name that they lived, but they were DEAD-- Rev. 3: 1 - 6.
2. A church may be popular for many reason:
   (1) Because of the wealth in the congregation.
   (2) Because of certain members.
   (3) Because of the preacher.
   (4) Because of what it has done in the past.
3. The unpopular church in a community may be the stable congregation.

IV. THE KIND OF MEETING HOUSE A CHURCH HAS DOES NOT MEAN IT IS STRONG.
1. An extremely expensive building many times is a reflection of the vanity and pride of the people.
2. An expensive building can hinder strength, because an expensive building will draw the wrong kind of people.

V. A CONGREGATION IS SPIRITUALLY STABLE WHEN IT UPHOLDS ALL THE TRUTH.
1. The local church is the pillar and ground of the truth -- I Tim. 3:15.
2. The whole truth makes men FREE -- John 8:32.
4. The truth is to be preached in season and out of season -- 2 Tim. 4: 1 - 5.

VI. A CONGREGATION IS SPIRITUALLY STABLE WHEN ITS MEMBERS:
1. Love God more than SELF -- 2 Tim. 3:2; Luke 9:23.
2. Love God more than PLEASURE -- 2 Tim. 3:4; Luke 8:14.
3. Love God more than FAMILY -- Matt. 10:37.
4. Love God more than the WORLD -- I John 2: 15 - 17.
5. Love God more than MONEY -- I Tim. 6:10.

VII. A CONGREGATION IS STRONG AND STABLE WHEN MEMBERS ARE STEADFAST - Acts 2:42.
1. Steadfast in ATTENDANCE -- Heb. 10:25.
2. Steadfast in SOUL-WINNING -- Mk. 16:15 -16.
3. Steadfast in PURE LIVING -- James 1: 27; Tit. 2:11- 12.
5. Steadfast in ENCOURAGING THE WEAK -- Rom. 15:1; Gal. 6:2

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