

What SHOULD NOT Destroy A Local Church

Revelation 3:1-6

Persecution For Righteousness

- United and strengthened.
 - Beaten. Acts 5:40-42
 - Stephen and scattering. Acts 7:59; 8:1, 4
- Tribulation, suffering, prison, death
 - Crown, overcome, not hurt. Revelation 2:9-11
- Faith is purified and strengthened when tried by trials. 1 Peter 1:6-9; (5:10); James 1:2

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Being The Minority And Isolated

- Always true. Matthew 7:14 (Luke 13:23-24)
- Lord stands by us. 2 Timothy 4:16-18
 - *"I am with you ..."* Matthew 28:20; Haggai 1:13; 2:4
- We can be strong even where Satan's throne is. Revelation 2:13 (cf. Pergamum)
 - Political capital of the province.
 - Temple-warden of the state religion.
 - Patron deities: Zeus, Athena, Dionysius, and Aesculapius
- Our God is Sovereign. Romans 8:31, 28

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Problems Of Sin

- Unrepented sin. Acts 5:5-11, 13-14 (1 Corinthians 5:5-7)
- Murmuring/complaining. Acts 6:1-6
- Disputes over the truth. Acts 15:1-2
 - Establish the truth. 15:24-29
 - Preach it only. 15:30-35
 - Turn away from those who teach error. Romans 16:17

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Being Sound In The Faith

- Some grow weary of being "sound"
 - View it as "tradition," not truth
 - Want to be "progressive," "on the move," and "exciting"
 - Not content with sound doctrine
- Sound: Doctrine, words, speech, faith (Timothy and Titus)
 - "Healthy, wholesome, uncorrupt"
 - Charged to remain sound ... hold fast. 1 Timothy 1:3; 2 Timothy 1:13; (cf. 1 Timothy 6:3)

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Financial Distress

- Poor, yet rich in faith. Revelation 2:9
 - Lord supplies our needs; First give ourselves to Him. 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (8:1-2, 5)
 - May lose building and property.
 - May not have a building and property.
 - Preacher support may be from other churches.
 - Keep trusting the Lord.
- Money must never be the measure of success or failure of any church of Christ (Revelation 3:17)

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WHAT WE MUST DO TO PREVENT THE DESTRUCTION OF **THIS** CHURCH

Romans 12:5-8

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Submission To Christ's Authority

- Keep the divine pattern for our teaching, worship, and work.

Colossians 3:17, *"And whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, (do) all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

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Devotion To Christ

- Daily living that shows Christ is living in us. Galatians 2:20 (cf. 4:19)
- Abide in His word. John 8:31
- Implant His word in heart. James 1:21-22

Luke 9:23, *"And he said unto all, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."*

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Submission To Each Other

- Humble service and deference to each other strengthens the bonds of love and unity. Philippians 2:1-4

Ephesians 5:21, *"... subjecting yourselves one to another in the fear of Christ."*

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Bear Good Fruit

- No fruit ... rejected. Revelation 3:15-16
- Congregations bear fruit. Philippians 4:14-18
- Each Christian being useful and fruitful. 2 Peter 1:8 (5-11)

Philippians 4:16-17, *"for even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my need. Not that I seek for the gift; but I seek for the fruit that increaseth to your account."*

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Fifth Street East Church Of Christ

- How important is this church to you?
- Important enough not to allow anything to disrupt our ...
 - Fellowship with Christ?
 - Unity with each other?
 - Usefulness to God?
- Respect divine authority, devote ourselves to Jesus, submit ourselves to each other, and bear good fruit for God.

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