

**Six Ways to
Destroy the Church**

Acts 2:41-47

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41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

Acts 2:41-47

45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need.

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.



The 9Marks Series Preface

- The 9Marks series of books is premised on two basic ideas. First, the local church is far more important to the Christian life than many Christians today perhaps realize. A book called *What is a Healthy Church Member?* Might also be called *What is a Healthy Christian?* We at 9Marks believe that a healthy Christian is a healthy church member.

What is a Healthy Church Member?
By: Thabiti M. Anyabwile

Six Ways to Destroy the Church

- Viewing People as Sinners Instead of Souls

Acts 2:41

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

1. Convert Souls

James 5:19-20

19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;

20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

2. Win Souls

Proverbs 11:30

30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

Six Ways to Destroy the Church

- Viewing People as Sinners Instead of Souls
- Poor Doctrine (too much / too little)

Acts 2:42

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1. Poor Doctrine Proves False Opinions

2 Timothy 4:3-4

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

**2. Poor Doctrine
Preaches Folk Theology**

1 Timothy 1:3-4

3 As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

4 Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.

**3. Poor Doctrine
Has Severe Consequences**

Revelation 22:18-19

18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

**4. Good Doctrine
Exercises Godliness**

1 Timothy 4:6-7

6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

7 But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

Six Ways to Destroy the Church

- Viewing People as Sinners Instead of Souls
- Poor Doctrine (too much / too little)
- Personal Agendas

Acts 2:43-44

43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

1. True Believers Are Not Driven By Personal Agendas

Philippians 2:1- 4

1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Six Ways to Destroy the Church

- Viewing People as Sinners Instead of Souls
- Poor Doctrine (too much / too little)
- Personal Agendas
- Greed

Acts 2:45

45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need.

1. Greed Removes Conviction

Ephesians 4:17 17

17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

2. All Sin Comes Back to Greed

1 John 2:16

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Six Ways to Destroy the Church

- Viewing People as Sinners Instead of Souls
- Poor Doctrine (too much / too little)
- Personal Agendas
- Greed
- Division

Acts 2:46

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

1. Beware of Dividers

Romans 16:17

17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

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- Viewing People as Sinners Instead of Souls
- Poor Doctrine (too much / too little)
- Personal Agendas
- Greed
- Division
- Personal Achievement / Acknowledgement

Acts 2:47

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

**1. Do Not Look For
Man's Approval**

Matthew 23:6-7

6 And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,

7 And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.

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- Poor Doctrine (too much / too little)
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- Greed
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2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

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