

## I. Intro

A. "I write these things to you, hoping to come to you soon. But if I should be delayed, I have written so that you will know how people ought (necessary) to act in **God's household**, which is **the church** of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth." -1 Timothy 3:14-15 HCSB

B. Need a healthy respect for God's Household

- i. Don't treat common what is sacred
- ii. Learn to honor what he honors and value what He values

## II. God Plants Us in a Local Church

A. Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet **when planted, it grows** and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade." -Mark 4:30-32 NIV

- i. God a master Gardener
- ii. He knows the correct Soil, moisture, light, and fertilizer needed for each plant.
  1. Rose bush wouldn't flourish in the desert.
  2. Cactus wouldn't flourish in the rain forest.
- iii. \*Fertilizer stinks but when used, it nourishes and accelerates growth.
  1. Difficult People
  2. Difficult Problems
  3. Difficult Processes

B. "The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green," -Psalms 92:12-14 NIV

- i. **Some are placed but don't allow themselves to be planted.**
- ii. Planting is...
  1. Commitment to the people and the processes of a local church.
  2. Consistency – Standing in good times and bad.
  3. Contribution - to the vision (serving and giving)
  4. Contentment - learning to be content where God's placed you and serve in obscurity if necessary

- iii. Roots develop fruits
- iv. We want the fruits but we must develop roots
- v. Fruits are seen
- vi. Roots are unseen
- vii. Fruits are celebrated
- viii. Roots are significant

### III. God Transplants Us - How to Leave a Church

#### A. Two Guiding Scriptures:

- a. “You will **go out in joy and be led forth in peace**; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.” –Isaiah 55:12 NIV
- b. “like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them aloft. The Lord alone led him; no foreign god was with him.” -Deuteronomy 32:11-12 NIV
- c. Seem opposed but they are parallel guide rails
- d. God uses frustrations at times to stir us from our comfort zones but we should never leave on that basis alone.
- e. We must get the mind of Christ (inner peace and even joy) and be brutally honest with ourselves at the same time. Can be difficult!

#### B. Practical Advice

- a. Pray and Fast
- b. Handle Conflict according to Matthew 18
- c. Evaluate by asking yourself questions
  - i. Am I leaving prematurely?
  - ii. Am I leaving or being led?
  - iii. Unresolved Issues?
  - iv. What is my track record? (3 churches in 5 years 😬)
- d. If possible involve the leadership of the church and seek their blessing.
- e. At all times *walk in honor*

## Household of Faith – How to Leave a Church

- i. Needed most in transitions!!!
  - ii. Story of Noah's worst day
  - iii. Remember and highlight the good.
  - iv. Bless the leadership (write a letter of gratitude)
  - v. Guard your tongue
    - 1. Speak well of the church
    - 2. Go quietly
  
  - f. Allow time to find a new church 3-6 months
    - i. Don't wait
    - ii. Don't make a deep commitment too soon
    - iii. Get to know the house
  
  - g. Allow yourself to be adopted
- C. Conclusion