**What It Takes To Be A Successful Church**

**Reading – Philippians 1:3-11**

***Acts 2:46 46And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,***

***1 Corinthians 1:12-13 12What I mean is that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.” 13Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?***

**A Successful Church as Defined in the Bible**

***[Acts 13:1-3] Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” 3Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.***

***[1 Corinthians 14:26-33] What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up... 29Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. 30If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. 31For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, 32and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. 33For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints,***

***[1 Timothy 5:3-8 &16] Honor widows who are truly widows. 4But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. 5She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, 6but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. 7Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. 8But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever…. 16If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are really widows.***

***[Ephesians 4:16] from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.***

***[1 Corinthians 11:23-29] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for£ you. Do this in remembrance of me.”£ 25In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. 27Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. 28Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.***

***[2 Timothy 4:1-4] I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ…. 2Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.***

***[1 John 5:1-4] Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. 2By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. 4For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.***

***[Philippians 2:1-4] So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others***.

 ***[Ephesians 4:32] Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you***.

 ***[1 Corinthians 12:12-26] For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ… 14For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell?... But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.***

***[Ephesians 4:15] Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,***

 ***[Philippians 1:9] And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,***

 ***[Hebrews 5:12-14] For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, 13for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. 14But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.***

**Survey**

**Please take the time to give us your thoughts. Return this survey to one of the deacons or elders.**

What do YOU think WE the Covington church need to do to be MORE successful?

What will indicate OUR ongoing success as a church of Christ?

* What characteristics are indicators of our current success?
* What are indicators of our current weaknesses?
* What does the Covington church need to do to become more successful in the future?
* What do you envision the state of the Covington church six months from now? One year from now? Three years from now?
* How do you plan to involve yourself in helping the Covington church to move toward greater success?