

General Title: Two Churches (P.T.), One Purpose (T.Q.)

One Purpose

I'd like for us to consider a passage that comes from 1 Corinthians 3:6-8 *"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor."*

Verse 8 says, "The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose." And what is that purpose? Look at verse 6. "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow." And again in verse 7, "So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow." I want you to notice the simple assertion in the two verses, "God made it grow". By what purpose are these two men, Apollos and Paul, joined, regardless of their distinctive gifts and abilities? What is the singular purpose of planting seed and watering it? The answer? Growth. Growth by the power of God; growth by the blessing of God; growth by the diligence of planting and the diligence of watering. But the purpose is growth.

Let me be bold and ask you to take verse 8 and substitute the word "man" with the word "church". "The church that plants and the church that waters have one purpose." And what is that statement of purpose of our Dual Church? One word: Growth. Every event that we plan, every ministry that we do, every policy that we write, every decision that we make must have one purpose, and that is, to grow two healthy congregations to the glory of God.

Let me leave you with three charges:

1. Protect that purpose. English Congregation, defend the Dual Church against anyone, any spiritual or human purpose, that seeks to undermine the growth and unity of the two congregations. Cantonese Congregation, stand up against anything that might seek to cause either congregation to falter. Pray for God's protection around either Congregation. Be watchful that the ways of the world do not get into the ways of God.

2. Promote that purpose. Cantonese Congregation, do you see a weakness in an English Congregation ministry? Offer help. Flood it with prayer support. Provide wise counsel. Don't take away from one congregation to promote the growth of the other. English Congregation, do you see something that the Cantonese Congregation lacks? Choose to share your energies. Join hands together to make wise decisions. Help each other move into fruitful areas of ministry and growth. Remember this charge: Promote Growth.

3. Plan that purpose. No purpose moves forward without active planning because mutual growth can come only when we plan to do so. Solomon did not build the Temple without a plan. Nehemiah did not rebuild the wall without a plan. I would love to see Daniel Fellowship plan to invite CollUni Fellowship over for supper and a Bible Study to grow our ministry to those in College and University. I would be delighted to see the English Young Couple's ministry offer parenting seminars to the Cantonese Young Couple's ministry to bring parents and kids to Christ. In the past year and a half since I've been here at SCAC, I've been so encouraged to see both the English and the Cantonese Choirs join forces together in worship and celebration. I've been so pleased to see Elim Fellowship take so much interest in the growth of 7up Fellowship, and the

parents from the Cantonese Congregation attend Didomi parent's night. My third charge to our Dual Church is to make Plans that would help the other congregation grow. We're not in competition with each other; we are in cooperation with each other.

Let me close off with a passage that comes from Revelation 17:12-14. *"The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast.* This passage speaks of another type of unity in the Last Days when the forces of Satan make war against the Lamb of God and against His Church. The Bible talks about these forces of Satan as ten horns of power giving their power to the Beast.

{13} They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. {14} They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings--and with Him will be His called, chosen and faithful followers."

Did you notice verse 13? The forces of Satan have one purpose. And that one purpose is to destroy the growth of the Church. As two Congregations, we must grow because there is a spiritual battle at hand. Satan doesn't want us to grow. The time to take up the charge

- to Protect the Purpose of Growing Healthy Congregations to God's glory
- to Promote that Purpose with all our hearts
- to Plan for that Purpose with all our minds.