

Intro/problem

From day one the church has been plagued by false teachers and false teaching. We cannot be in denial :

Darkness is the natural way of things in this fallen world. It is the natural way of things even in this church. And cursing at it won't make it go away.

- What time period do we want the church to go back to?
- When was it the most awesome?
- What would cause us to ignore the fact that our church is NATURALLY dark?
- Read the following article and discuss as it relates this sermon:
 - <http://biblicallythinking.com/2011/pastoral-predicament>

CPT:

To straighten out the church. We must nullify false teachers with true teachers. We must rebuke false teaching with true teaching.

- Paul's point to Titus was that in order to straighten out the church he needed to appoint elders who could defend the truth against the liars.
- Is this good advice today? Why or why not?

Main Idea:

Do not waste your time cursing the darkness. Add light.

We must nullify false teachers with true teachers.

We must rebuke false teaching with true teaching.

- the goal of this study is to figure out how this applies to your group specifically?
- How might you be wasting time cursing the darkness?
- What contribution can your group make to the creation of true teachers?
- What contribution can your group make to the promotion of true teaching?
- In essence, what are your plans as a group to identify potential future group leaders?
- What are your plans as a group to multiply; to add light in our church?

- I ended the message quoting C.S. Lewis: "Not to be able to meet the enemies on their own ground— would be to throw down our weapons, and to betray our uneducated brethren who have, under God, no defence but us against the intellectual attacks of the heathen. Good philosophy must exist, if for no other reason, because bad philosophy needs to be answered."
 - How does this impact your application?

Here are some points to consider:

Light does not shine in methods but in men

The reality of false teachers demands the multiplication of true teachers.

Light does not shine where it is not pointed

The reality of false teaching demands the rebuke of true teaching

Let us remember one final point----Light does not come from us

In our church these points are nowhere more easily applied than in our small groups. This is the proving ground where people of character can be identified. This is the place where light can be shined personally in the dark places that creep into our lives.

Your small groups needs to be producing more godly small groups. Period.

If you consider this church your home you need to be involved in this process.

To Straighten out the church

- Read Titus 1:5. Notice Titus' charge - to straighten out the church by appointing elders.
- Read Malachi 4:1-6 and Matthew 3:1-12. What is God's method for straightening out His people?
- Why do you think we prone to turn to methods rather than to godly men?

We must nullify false teachers with true teachers

- Read Titus 1:6-10. Notice that the reason for appointing elders was because MANY were insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers (10). The very existence of false teachers demanded the multiplication of true teachers to nullify them.
- Saul and David are a great illustration of the right and wrong kind of leader.
- Read 1 Samuel 9:1-2. Notice that the people looked for physical stature.
- Read 1 Samuel 10:17-25. Notice that God wanted to reward their rejection of Him with a king that "looked good."
- Read 1 Samuel 16:6-13 and 1 Kings 9:4; 11:33, 38; 14:8; 15:5. What was God concerned with?
- Do we value these qualities in our churches? In this church? In your group?

We must rebuke false teaching with true teaching.

Read Titus 1:9-16. Notice that sound doctrine was needed to rebuke false teaching. Words like "rebuke sharply," and "they must be silenced," reveal the serious nature of this opposition.

- read the following article and discuss: <http://www.thespurgeonfellowship.org/quotes.htm>

Light does not shine in methods but in men - The reality of false teachers demands multiplication of true teachers

- Read John 1:1-5; 8:12; 9:5; 16:33. Jesus was the light of the world; He overcame the world. Light always overcomes darkness.
- Read 1 John 4:4; 5:4-5. How does this apply to the sermon?
- Philippians 2:14-16 and Matthew 5:14-16. If we are the light of the world what does it mean when there is darkness around us?

Light does not shine where it is not pointed - The reality of false teaching demands rebuke by true teaching

- Read Ephesians 5:8-13. What should we do when we encounter false doctrine?
- What might this look like in your group?
- How can we remain loving and winsome but also sharp and firm?

The Light we shine a reflected light

- Read Ephesians 5:14. Light does not come from us. It comes from Christ. It is His light we reflect.

- how is your group a light in this church?

Sermon Study

- How can it multiply itself to add light?
- What specific steps can you take to pursue the multiplication of true teachers and true teachings?
- Pray for our church.

According to Tom Rainer:

Most church leaders want their churches to grow, and for the right reasons. They want new people to encounter God, grow in their faith, and join God on His mission of serving others. But there is often a wide gap between a church leader desiring to grow and the church possessing a mentality of multiplication.

During my church consulting days, I could quickly assess a church's multiplication mentality by asking just one question: How often do you start new groups (or classes)? I would ask the question because I'd seen over and over again a close relationship between the churches that were growing and those who constantly launched new groups. The churches working hard to launch new small groups and Sunday School classes on a regular basis were continually connecting new people and building believers who were passionate about what the Lord was doing through His Church. Thus, they were growing.

The principle is obvious: If you want to connect new people in church, you must launch new groups.

Of course, that raises another question: What's stopping churches from regularly starting new classes and groups? While a plethora of reasons may exist, here are the three that stand out in my mind:

A lack of vision. It's easy for church leaders to become trapped in the present. If a church has a handful of Sunday School classes meeting on Sunday mornings and another handful of small groups meeting on Wednesday nights, that may seem good enough. People are gathering in community. Members are being fed spiritually. The system is working. But failing to launch new groups today means there won't be a community experience available for the guests and new members coming tomorrow. Wise leaders have a continual vision to launch new groups.

A lack of leaders. Launching a new group or class without a capable, competent leader is like launching a cruise ship without a reliable captain—bad things can happen. Therefore, churches are right to be hesitant about starting new groups when they lack the leaders to support those groups. Thus churches must continually identify new leaders, invest in them, and challenge them to help launch new groups for the sake of connecting God's people in community.

A lack of systems. If launching new groups is important, necessary systems must be developed. I am not talking about complex databases or lengthy procedure manuals, but simple systems that will help the church launch and communicate new groups. Church leaders must be able to answer these few questions and have simple systems in place:

How does a new person get connected to a group/class?

How are leaders recruited and trained?

How are new groups launched and announced to the church?

Right now we use membership 101 and personal invites to fill our groups. We rely on groups producing new leaders and new groups. Make sure your leader is connected to Pastor Paul about fulfilling this vision of multiplication.