

## When the Church Grew

- Individuals are instructed to grow—individual growth helps the group – 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18
  - “Dead church” is not acceptable to God – Rev. 3:1
  - Growth can be in number and in making each member stronger
- WHEN the seed was planted
  - Lk. 8:5-8; 11-15 – Parable of the sower
    - Seed is the word of God
    - Church grew when seed is planted in hearts of people
  - Hag. 2:19 – If seed still in in the barn, no work has been done yet! Growth requires action
  - Multiple examples of seed being planted in Acts...
- WHEN the church did its own work
  - Acts 6:1-6 – Addressed needs of widows while still meeting primary spiritual objectives (prayer, ministry)
  - Acts 6:7 – result was growth of church
- WHEN the church was at peace
  - Gal. 5:15 – Selfish conflicts drive Christians away, sometimes for good
  - Acts 9:31 – peace equated with walking in fear of the Lord and in comfort of Holy Spirit
    - Peace and harmony in truth
- WHEN people turned their hearts to God and removed sin
  - Acts 19:18-19 – Many believed and made changes, including burning books of magic
    - Are there any such changes we should make?
  - Acts 19:20 – word of God grew mightily and prevailed
- WHEN church keeps God’s decrees
  - Can Christ’s church grow in Him without keeping God’s commands? Eph. 4:15
  - Acts 16:4 – Paul, Silas, and Timothy delivered instruction
  - Acts 16:5 – churches strengthened in faith; increased in number greatly