



Livestream & Service archives: <https://wschurch.net/sermons>  
Past Sermons & Transcripts: <https://nathanguy.com/sermons>  
Current Sermon Notes: <https://nathanguy.com/sermon-notes>

## How Churches Grow

Acts 2:47 • July 16, 2023

### RAPID GROWTH

The early church grew from a few thousand members to \_\_\_\_\_ in 3 centuries. In that time, they went from 1/1000<sup>th</sup> of the world’s population to \_\_\_\_\_% of the world population. That is a growth rate of \_\_\_\_\_% per decade. (Rodney Stark, *The Rise of Christianity*)

### A LIFE, NOT A METHOD

The model of growth for the New Testament church concerns a L\_\_\_\_\_, not a method. It involves embracing a G\_\_\_\_\_ that changes everything, and a vision of that gospel that people couldn’t help but fall in L\_\_\_\_\_ with. Then it describes a people who took that love, that gospel, with unbelievable and utter S\_\_\_\_\_. (Matt 5:16; Acts 2:41-47; 4:13; 5:12-13)

### HOW TO STIFLE GROWTH

Paul said “you are witnesses of how we L\_\_\_\_\_ among you believers. God is also a witness” (1 Thess 2:10)

By Violence & Worldliness. In 1994, R\_\_\_\_\_ was considered the most Christian nation in Africa. Tribal warfare led to 800,000 deaths in just 100 days.

By In-Fighting & Division. Churches of Christ in the United States have less adherents than we had in 19\_\_\_\_\_. List the splintering sub-groups you interact with personally:

### RELATIONSHIPS LEADING TO FRIENDSHIP

The early Christians not only shared the gospel; they shared their L\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thess 1:5; 2:8).

\_\_\_\_\_ % of people say F\_\_\_\_\_ is why they became identified with a church. (Flavil Yeakley, *Why Churches Grow*)

Answers: 33 million; 56%; 40%; Life; Gospel; Love; Seriousness; Loved; Rwanda; 57; 1000; Lives; 90%; Friendship