



THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER...

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Many Applications for Christians:

- Worldliness
- Materialism
- Job
- Family
- **Congregation**

THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER...

Solutions:

- Focus on “Us” not “Them”
- Consider the positives of current situation.
- Consider things to build on.
- Work on relationships with brethren.
- Look to the future (not the past).

FOCUS ON “US” NOT “THEM”

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Don't Compare to Others:

- **2 Cor 10:12**
- 2 Cor 13:5
- Phil 2:3
- Rev 2-3

For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

- Leads to discouragement or contentment
- Good works / Attendance / Friendliness / Participation / Building
- Attitude

FOCUS ON “US” NOT “THEM”

Don't Compare to Others:

- 2 Cor 10:12
- **2 Cor 13:5**
- Phil 2:3
- Rev 2-3

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

- Comparisons aren't necessary
- We have God's Word

FOCUS ON “US” NOT “THEM”

Don't Compare to Others:

- 2 Cor 10:12
- 2 Cor 13:5
- **Phil 2:3**
- Rev 2-3

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

- Comparisons lead to rivalries

FOCUS ON “US” NOT “THEM”

Don't Compare to Others:

- 2 Cor 10:12
- 2 Cor 13:5
- Phil 2:3
- **Rev 2-3**

2:19- I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience

- 7 churches all judged by their own merits and shortcomings

2:13- I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name

- Different situations (Pergamos)

FOCUS ON “US” NOT “THEM”

Don't Compare to Others:

- 2 Cor 10:12
- 2 Cor 13:5
- Phil 2:3
- Rev 2-3

Please God, Not Men:

- **Gal 1:10**
- Phil 2:12

*For do I now persuade men, or God?
Or do I seek to please men? For if I
still pleased men, I would not be a
bondservant of Christ.*

- Especially important when seeing unfaithful congregations

FOCUS ON “US” NOT “THEM”

Don't Compare to Others:

- 2 Cor 10:12
- 2 Cor 13:5
- Phil 2:3
- Rev 2-3

Please God, Not Men:

- Gal 1:10
- **Phil 2:12**

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling

- Our salvation does not depend on our rank
- Individual salvation is not linked to our congregation

CONSIDER THE POSITIVES

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Our Focus Affects Our Behavior:

- **Phil 4:8**
- Prov 17:22

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

- There are positives
- Focusing on negatives leads to “grass is greener” attitude

CONSIDER THE POSITIVES

Our Focus Affects Our Behavior:

- Phil 4:8
- **Prov 17:22**

*A merry heart does good, like medicine,
But a broken spirit dries the bones.*

- A positive attitude will improve our ability and desire to do good.

CONSIDER THE POSITIVES

Our Focus Affects Our Behavior:

- Phil 4:8
- Prov 17:22

Don't Complain to Others:

- **Eph 4:29**
- Phil 2:14

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

- Discuss the congregations strengths in casual conversation.
- Build each other up.

CONSIDER THE POSITIVES

Our Focus Affects Our Behavior:

- Phil 4:8
- Prov 17:22

Don't Complain to Others:

- Eph 4:29
- **Phil 2:14**

Do all without complaining and disputing

- Complaining about congregational “problems” does all harm and no good.
- Do something about it.

CONSIDER THINGS TO BUILD ON

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More overall benefit to the Church:

- **Phil 2:3-4**
 - + Gal 5:26
 - + Rom 12:10
- Rev 3:1-3

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

- More will benefit from work to improve current congregation

CONSIDER THINGS TO BUILD ON

More overall benefit to the Church:

- Phil 2:3-4
 - + Gal 5:26
 - + Rom 12:10
- Rev 3:1-3

*Let us not become conceited,
provoking one another, envying one
another.*

- Selfish ambition / conceit – Phil 2:3
- Don't leave for the wrong reason.

CONSIDER THINGS TO BUILD ON

More overall benefit to the Church:

- Phil 2:3-4
 - + Gal 5:26
 - + **Rom 12:10**
- Rev 3:1-3

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another

- Give preference to our brethren
- Consider how we as individuals can improve the church

CONSIDER THINGS TO BUILD ON

More overall benefit to the Church:

- Phil 2:3-4
 - + Gal 5:26
 - + Rom 12:10
- **Rev 3:1-3**

²Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.

³Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent

- Even “The Dead Church” still had hope of improvement

CONSIDER THINGS TO BUILD ON

More overall benefit to the Church:

- Phil 2:3-4
 - + Gal 5:26
 - + Rom 12:10
- Rev 3:1-3

Don't neglect strengths:

- **2 Thes 1:1-3**
 - + 1 Thes 3:12, 4:1, 4:10
- 1 Thes 5:11

³We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other

- Stagnation leads to mediocrity
- Must continue to work on our strengths along with our weaknesses

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Don't neglect strengths:

- 2 Thes 1:1-3
 - + **1 Thes 3:12, 4:1, 4:10**
- 1 Thes 5:11

Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God

- Paul placed an importance on continued effort and they delivered

CONSIDER THINGS TO BUILD ON

More overall benefit to the Church:

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Don't neglect strengths:

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 - + 1 Thes 3:12, 4:1, 4:10
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Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

- Edification is a continual process, and we all need it.

WORK ON RELATIONSHIPS WITH BRETHREN

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We Have a Common Faith:

- **Acts 2:41-47**
- Acts 4:32-35
- 2 Pet 1:1

⁴⁴Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

⁴⁶So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart.

- The joy of being children of God drew them closer together.

WORK ON RELATIONSHIPS WITH BRETHREN

We Have a Common Faith:

- Acts 2:41-47
- **Acts 4:32-35**
- 2 Pet 1:1

³²Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul

- Something to strive for.

WORK ON RELATIONSHIPS WITH BRETHREN

We Have a Common Faith:

- Acts 2:41-47
- Acts 4:32-35
- **2 Pet 1:1**

Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ

- Like faith is more important than similar interests / hobbies
- Should have a closeness to all Christians

WORK ON RELATIONSHIPS WITH BRETHREN

We Have a Common Faith:

- Acts 2:41-47
- Acts 4:32-35
- 2 Pet 1:1

The Good and the Bad:

- **Acts 9:31**
- Acts 15
- James 5:16
- Col 3:12-17

Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.

- We can't understand the relief of peace from persecution.
- Helped them to grow.

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²Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question.

- Judaizers spreading false teaching in the church
- Shouldn't be afraid to discuss unclear subjects with one another
- Combat false teaching together

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The Good and the Bad:

- Acts 9:31
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Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

- Talk to one another about our sins.
- Accept that none of us are perfect.

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The Good and the Bad:

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¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

- Grudges don't help anyone
- Communicate and listen

LOOK TO THE FUTURE

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- **Phil 3:12-14**
- Luke 9:62
- Eph 4:1-6

¹³forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- Forget about our own and others' mistakes.
 - + The runner does not look back.
- Strive for progress and for Heaven.

LOOK TO THE FUTURE

- Phil 3:12-14
- **Luke 9:62**
- Eph 4:1-6

But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

- Past mistakes are a distraction. Learn from them and move on.
- We must look ahead to make progress

LOOK TO THE FUTURE

- Phil 3:12-14
- Luke 9:62
- **Eph 4:1-6**

²with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

- Walk worthy of the calling
- We keep the unity by bearing with one another
- We are all part of the one body / one faith

LOOK TO THE FUTURE

- Phil 3:12-14
- Luke 9:62
- **Eph 4:1-6**

“You may think the grass is greener on the other side, but your grass can be just as green if you take the time to water it”

²with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the

*of the calling
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