

Mark 7

Does a few things and does them well



1. What do you think it means to do something well? Would God agree?
2. How many things does your church do? How many of them would you say are done well?
3. Doing things well is often more about organisation, administration and management than anything to do with faith. Do you think we place enough importance on these skills in our churches?
4. A healthy church should at least be doing the basics well. Which of the following does your church do well?
 - i Public worship
 - ii Pastoral care
 - iii Stewardship and administration
- 5 Read Luke 6:46-49

Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

If a building is to stand, deep foundations must be laid and it must be built well. Is doing the basics well the equivalent of building on good foundations?

- 6 If we do not do the basics well and hence lay down poor or no foundations, is that the equivalent of hearing Jesus' words but not putting them into practice?
7. Is your church vulnerable to destruction (decline) because it is not doing the basics well?
8. Churches have occasional services such as baptisms, weddings and funerals. How well are they done? How thorough is the preparation? Is there good quality follow-up?
9. Churches that do the basics well tend to enjoy what they do and be relaxed about what they don't do. How relaxed and enjoyable is your church?
10. Healthy churches often appear to do less than 'unhealthy' churches. Many 'unhealthy' churches seem to think they need to do more to become healthy. What is the attitude of your church – to do more or to do less?
11. What two things could your church give up that would actually help it focus on the basics more?
12. What two things do you think could be done much better at your church? What would need to change to make this happen?
13. On a scale of 1 to 6 (1 bad), score how well your church does against this mark.

Prayer



Lord God, we are sorry that we too often think that to do more is the answer to all our problems. Help us to recognise that we need to do things well, even if this means doing less. As we explore what our priorities are, guide us through the power of your Holy Spirit. We pray these things in the name of Jesus, your Son, our Saviour, teacher and inspiration.

Amen
