

INGREDIENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL CHURCH

Over the weekend, the men and boys of the church enjoyed some “man time” together. During the campout, we participated in three fun activities that gave us a lot of laughs and some memorable moments.

As I reflected on the weekend, it occurred to me that these activities represent basic ingredients for a successful growing church. While there are some important ingredients that we won't address tonight, this Bible study does look at three of the most important and fundamental practices for each of us!

1. PIG PICKIN' (FELLOWSHIP)

> EATING is not fellowship ... but fellowship certainly involves eating together!

Q: What is a good understanding of Biblical 'fellowship?' (Prov. 27:17)

* Gal. 6:2 * 1 Cor. 1:10 * Rom. 13:8 * James 5:16

> ill: Friday, I ate nothing, saving up my appetite for swine! What I really anticipated, however, was SHARING the experience! (conversations with Vince)

> We, as a church, are good at fellowship, (we are a church that smiles) but we can be better. How?

(1) Spend time together OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH! (Acts 2:42-47)

(2) Spend time with people YOU DON'T KNOW WELL! (Heb. 13:2)

* These give God the opportunity to grow us!

(ex: Dayton Birt's thanksgiving)

2. SKEET SHOOTIN' (HOLINESS)

> The Greek word for SIN: *Hamartia* – literally, “MISSING THE MARK”

> According to this definition, there was a whole lot of sinning going on last weekend!

Q: Many churches have downplayed the concept of sin. In fact, in secular society you almost never hear the term! (Have you?)

Ill: Elvis song, “I Can't Help Falling in Love with You” – remake by UB40

-- why do you think that is?

> If we do focus on personal sin, righteousness and holiness ... what's our motivation?

* Because we don't want others to get away with what we can't do? NO

* Because it's fun to be judgmental? NO

* Our motivation is that we want the BEST for everyone! (Rom. 6:23)

-- Ignoring sin is like the parents who set no rules for their kids

-- No one likes to be confronted / convicted, but it's a sign of LOVE

> Being Serious About Sin!

-- *Jamie & Kevin are very serious about their shootin'. They'll do whatever it takes to hit the target! They have the right guns, the right ammo, the right calls, etc.*

-- How serious are we about not missing the mark? (Mark 9:43-47)

> Finally, shooting sometimes HURTS ... just like saying "no" to sin!

-- ill: Shooting Kevin's over/under .20

-- I have a bruise from shooting; some are afraid to shoot because of the kick.

-- It takes a strong person to be willing to face the "pain" of right living ...

But it's always worth it in the end!

3. BASS FISHIN' (EVANGELISM)

> Jesus called his disciples to be FISHERS OF MEN. (Matt. 4:18-22)

> What if we don't know how to fish? When's the best time? What bait? What hook?

-- The best way to learn is ... JUST DO IT!

-- Those who caught the most fish were the YOUNGEST! (LEAST EXPERIENCED)

> Luke 5:4-11 Why were the disciples successful? (Keys to Evangelism)

(1) They were OBEDIENT

(2) They didn't rely on SKILL

(3) They didn't base their efforts on PAST RESULTS

-- Wouldn't it be great to catch so many "fish" that our boats started to sink?

> The Story of A Maniac Fisherman

-- How can we be maniacal evangelists?

-- interesting key: he only caught 1 fish!!

-- Ephesians 4:11 – Some are CALLED to be evangelists ...

They have a natural desire!

-- But we can all do the WORK of an evangelist. (2 Timothy 4:5)