

Fellowship: “and on the same branch bend”

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”

Psalms 133: 1

Getting real—choosing life over death

1. “...because we love the brethren” (I John 14) *Manual*, p. 40: A Rule for Motives and Acts
2. Feeling a sense of approval—being cherished, feeling loved and safe within our branch church
3. STOP HAVING OPINIONS! Right ideas can never be in conflict with each other. “...in Christian Science mere opinion is valueless.” *Science and Health*, p. 341:11 (only)
4. What are your thoughts about other church members? How do you react when criticized? (ignore, get riled, listen? 1. Check reactive behavior, 2. replace it with spiritual baptism) “Baptism. Purification by Spirit; submergence in Spirit.” *Science and Health*, p. 581
5. THAT IS NOT YOUR THINKING! (others nor ours)
6. How do we change attitudes? Name tags: give yourself a spiritual name—give your members spiritual names. **Sentinel* article, “Branch Church Progress” by George Nay

Hitting the refresh button: fun over drudgery

1. Let go of formalism and rigidity “...it chills the spirit of Christianity.” *Science and Health*, p. 256
2. Executive Board—executes the wishes of the membership
3. Meetings and gatherings (“aye” is a feeling of unity and fun)
4. Projects that are inclusive of the full membership
5. Eat together! Sing together! Pray together! Acts 12: 5—“prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.”

Know why you exist: frontier over fortress

1. Mission and vision statements
2. Committee or “team” Naming our church activities
3. Bylaws and guidelines—relax the rules. (*Robert’s Rules of Order*—back of book for small groups.)

Readiness: choosing now rather than later

1. Let go of numbers! “...where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20
2. What ideas come to you? Listen...share...be open and accepting. VALUE EVERYONE!
3. Try new things. BE CREATIVE. “What cannot God do?” *Science and Health*, p. 135

Embracing our neighbors: bold over mild

1. Love God, love your neighbor as yourself
2. Inclusive thinking: open your gates—consider the location of your church.
3. Invite your neighbors (mentally, visually as well as openly)

Branching out into the community: choosing community over isolation

1. Going out into the community—how can you be an effective presence?
2. What will others observe and see when getting to know you?

CHURCH. The structure of Truth and Love; whatever rests upon and proceeds from divine Principle.

[allows freedom of thought and expression]

The Church is that institution, which affords proof of its utility and is found elevating the race, rousing the dormant understanding from material beliefs to the apprehension of spiritual ideas and the demonstration of divine Science, thereby casting out devils, or error, and healing the sick. [Church Alive with the Holy Spirit]