KEYS TO A STRONG CHURCH  
Colossians 1:17, 18

INTRODUCTION:
1. If there is one thing that is needed today in our wishy washy society it is a strong church.
   A. In any given community where the church is strong, that community will be better because of it.
2. As we consider the Lord's church, each and everyone of us should realize that God requires that His church be a strong one.
   A. He has never, and will never, be pleased with a church which is weak - Revelation 2 & 3.
3. So with this thought in mind let us look at some keys to a strong church.

BODY:
1. KEEP CHRIST AS ITS HEAD:
   A. If the church is to be the strong church that God requires then it must keep Jesus in a position of preeminence.
      1. He must be the head of it - Col. 1:18.
   B. Today in those areas where man has assumed the leadership of the church we see that it has steadily digressed from the truth and from being a strong church.
2. FILL IT WITH KNOWLEDGE OF GOD’S WORD:
   A. If the church is to be the strong church that God wants then study of the word must be a part of our daily activities.
      1. Show me a weak member of the church and I will show you a person who most likely knows nothing about the Word of God - 2 Tim. 2:15.
         A. If we want to be able to stand before God in a position of not being ashamed then we must study His word.
      2. Show me a church which fails to study and I will show you a weak church.
   B. I honestly feel sorry for those who claim to be Christians, yet who never find time to study God’s Word.
      1. If I love God, as I say that I do, then I will want to know more about Him.
3. EACH MEMBER MUST BE STRONG IN THE FAITH:
   A. How can we ever expect to have a strong church while it is composed of weak members?
      1. No matter how long it has been since we obeyed the gospel we ought to be diligently contending for the faith - Jude 3.
   B. I fear that we, some times, offer too many excuses for not being strong in the faith.
      1. Granted at one time we were babies, but babies grow up or die - 1 Pet. 2:2.
   C. As older Christians it should never be said of us as written concerning the Hebrew Christians in Hebrews 5:12.
   D. Rather is should be said what is said in Hebrews 5:14.
4. LET IT ABOUND IN LOVE:
   A. If the Lord’s church is to ever be the strong organization that it should be it must abound in love.
1. And that love cannot be for just a few people, but for all - John 13:34, 35; 1 Thess. 3:12.
2. If we want to be recognized as the Lord’s disciples we must love one another. A. Yet, we are not to overlook sin or weakness in the lives of one another - Heb. 12:6.

5. **KEEP IT PURE:**
   A. For the church to ever be strong, as it should be, it must be kept pure - Rom. 12:1, 2.
   B. The church is the called out of the world according to the true meaning of the word church.
      1. If we are a part of the church we will strive to live pure sinless lives.
   C. It is a farce to encourage people to come out of the world and become like us while we are still a part of the world.

6. **MUST BE SATURATED WITH PRAYER:**
   A. The injunction to “pray without ceasing” - 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - is just as applicable today as it was when it was written.
      1. For the church to never be found in prayer would be like the body never coming in contact to the head.
         A. And we all know how long that would last, don't we?
      B. If we are “too busy for prayer, then we are too busy for God.”

7. **HAVE A UNITED MEMBERSHIP:**
   A. For the church to be strong it must be united.
      1. "United we stand, divided we fall” surely applies to the church - 1 Cor. 1:10.
         A. “A house divided against itself shall fall” applies - Lk. 11:17!
   B. We must be united if we are to be strong.