WHAT MUST THE CHURCH DO TO BE SAVED?
Jude 3, 4

INTRODUCTION:
1. We often discuss what the individual Christian must do in order to be saved.
   A. And we should discuss these matters.
2. However, in this lesson I want to address what must the church do to be saved.
   A. As I point out some things some may want to say that I do not know what I am talking about.
      1. But let me assure you, I do know, or I would not be saying what I am saying.
   B. Others may want to ignore what is being said, and they have the right to do so, but doing so will not make it go away.
   C. Still yet others may want to argue that I am wrong.
      1. And if so, then all they need to do is provide the facts that prove me wrong and I will gladly accept them.
3. Whether we want to admit it or not, the church is in trouble numerically, spiritually, and morally speaking.
   A. Numerical problems:
      1. As late as the 1960’s the church was the fastest growing religious organization in the US.
         A. Since then we have digressed in our growth to the point that we are not any longer on the chart in a significant way.
         B. This may surprise you, but in 1980 we hit zero level growth rate and started to decline in membership.
            1. Thankfully, that turned around a little, but very little.
      2. I read that we are loosing 50% of those baptized within the first seven years of their Christian life.
   3. The average Christian is not replacing himself.
      A. As a matter of fact, many Christians would have to live several hundred years to replace themselves in the church.
      B. In the majority of congregations today, the physical mortality rate is much higher than the spiritual birth rate.
         1. One study indicated that the actual rate is now 300 to 1.
   4. The church is loosing preachers faster than they can be trained.
B. Spiritual problems:
1. In so far as spiritual problems are concerned we can conclude that it is nothing less than terrible.
   A. The things that we hear, read, and see that are going on in the brotherhood today gives little hope that the church will remain pure, unless something is done soon.
2. Some have said relative to apostasy that, “It just won’t happen.”
   A. But why won’t it happen?
      1. It has happened before.
      2. Where was the church prior to the Restoration Movement?
3. Things are being taught from pulpits today that would cause elders and preachers of old to, if possible, turn over in their graves.
   A. Pentecostalism, advocacy for fellowship of denominations, an emphasis on grace to where it has become a twin to the denominational doctrine of salvation by “faith only,” and many other such false doctrines are finding their way into the church.
   B. I read that one study indicated that over 40% of brethren would have no objections to the use of mechanical instruments in worship.
4. Need I go on?
   A. Can we not see what the spiritual condition of the church is today by a consideration of these matters?

C. Moral problems:
1. As to the moral condition of the church, the concept of new morality (perhaps I might best say immorality) has taken over.
2. The church is saturated with problems of divorce and remarriage, dancing, gambling, social drinking, and other worldly activities.
4. In view of these matters, let me quickly list some things that we must do if the church is to survive.

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**BODY:**

**1. WE NEED TO RETURN TO THE BASICS OF THE GOSPEL**
A. We need to get back to from where we have fallen in view of the basics.

B. We need to be calling sin what it is - sin.
   1. Adultery has become an “affair”, yet it is sin.
   2. Homosexuality has become being “gay”, yet it is sin.
   3. Drunkenness has become an “illness”, yet it is sin.

C. We need to return to the old paths as the new ones are leading us away from Christ - Jeremiah 6:16.

2. WE MUST CEASE FROM COMPROMISING WITH SECTARIAN OR DENOMINATIONAL DOGMAS
   A. Those things which are contrary to the spirit and truth of N.T. Christianity must be ceased from.
   B. The Truth must be faithfully proclaimed and error must be exposed.
      1. Congregations and elders must get behind their preachers when they preach the whole council of God - 1 Peter 4:11.

3. THE CHURCH MUST RETURN TO THE HIGH STANDARD OF MORALITY
   A. Never have I gotten into more “trouble” in the church than when I have preached against immorality.
      1. Never have I received more rebuttals than when I have preached against dancing, social drinking, gambling, etc.
      2. But regardless, I will never quit preaching against those sins.
   B. There is no place in the church for worldliness - 1 John 2:15-17.

CONCLUSION:
1. If the church is to survive we must take a stand.
   A. If we do not do so, then we should not be surprised to find the church off wandering in the wilderness.