

Weekly Column
Korean Newspaper



Melvin University
and Me

Growth of lay people

The church members want to grow up. I've heard a pastor confess as follows: "Even though I've been preaching for more than 20 years, the church members yet haven't grown up like children."

I've been seriously troubled by this as a practical matter. Why is this happening? The congregation said, "The pastor didn't raise us!" From the standpoint of pastors, "The people are not growing."

First, in my view, the laypeople are not growing up, because they are not responsible, in other words they don't have a job to work, so they are in religious superficiality, so it became a habit, and they just went to church normally, and hard work is avoided, and a natural comfortable religious life is ingrained in the body, making it seem immature to the pastor. However, if we ask them why you are not mature, they are shift responsibility, and saying, "Our pastor made us like that."

Why pastors are not giving work and not taking them to get the responsibility? It seems to be a matter of mutual trust. The laymen do not bring the results as quickly as the pastor expects. I think this should be waited on by the pastors.

First of all, I think the atmosphere of the church is important. I think it is necessary to give a perception that lay people can grow personally. I think it is necessary for the pastor to always recognize that not only the growth of the church, but the growth of individual laypeople, is the growth in the

community of the church. It is true that it is up to the pastor to connect it. Next, I think it is necessary to have a system that allows this need to become a reality. There is a limit to the growth of church members themselves. The pastor's strong support and the ability to make it visible. If the system is backed up, it is considered more effective. Otherwise, we often see little results as much as they try.

Then, whatever ministry they take, it is necessary to give them ownership. Having ownership in one ministry, not in church ownership, helps a lot to grow fast. Having ownership creates a sense of responsibility and makes efforts to solve problems, so in the end, it cannot help but grow. Because of the growth is the result of such efforts.