

It Should Never Happen At Church

(Philippians 4:2)

- Introduction:**
1. A book title declared "*It Should Never Happen At Church.*"
 2. However, the reality is that we have all had to deal with experiences at church that should never happen.
 - a. A Church treasurer should never embezzle.
 - b. A church leader should never be caught DUI.
 - c. Two brothers in Christ should never allow their differences to escalate to the point of dividing the church.
 - d. Church politics and family ties should never get in the way of selecting the best qualified men to lead the church.
 - e. Christians should never gossip.
 - f. Truth should never be compromised.
 3. So what are we to do when things that should never happen, happen at church?

I. Make Sure You're Expectations Are Realistic

- A. To expect perfection from imperfect people is unrealistic.
- B. We have been redeemed but we are still in the process of being sanctified (Hebrews 2:11).
- C. Someone has said that "Disillusionment is the child of illusion."
- D. (Romans 3:10,23).
- E. (1 Timothy 1:15-16).

II. Remember Paul Warned The Church Would Suffer From Within

- A. (Acts 20:29-30).
- B. Probably the greatest challenges facing the church today come from within - pride, jealousy, anger, division...

III. Consider The Church Needs Grace As Does The Individual

- A. Church needs to receive grace as much as it needs to give it.
- B. The same consideration we give to individuals should be extended to the church as well.
- C. (James 2:13).

V. Become Proactive In Order To Improve What Needs Improved

- A. Complaints and criticism are easy, but it takes effort to invest oneself in a solution.
- B. "Don't curse the darkness, light a candle."
- C. God doesn't need white collar executives, but blue collar laborers.

- Conclusion:**
1. Yes, sometimes things happen at church that should never happen.
 2. When these situations exist, may we be found responding within the context of faith, trying to improve the situation.
 3. May God be gracious to us in our shortcomings and may we have the strength and patience to work through them.