

## Small Church - cont.

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### **The Challenges of a Small Church**

What are the challenges of being a member of a small church. First, there is a greater likelihood of getting discouraged in a small church. Members have to work harder to stay faithful, busy, and courageous in a small church (Numbers 13:33; Zechariah 4:10).

Second, there can be a failure to support the work financially in a small church. Members in a small church still need to give as much as they can to support the preaching of the gospel and other works in a small church (2 Corinthians 11:7-9).

Third, there can be a tendency toward stagnation in a small church. Members in a small church have to keep working to make up for anything lacking in a small church (Titus 1:5).

Fourth, there is the possibility of following a dynamic personality (or family) in a small church rather than Christ (3 John 9-10).

Yes, we are blessed to have a "small" church. Let's enjoy all its benefits and overcome any of its challenges!  
- Chris Reeves -

## Sentence Sermons

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- A small tongue can ruin a big person.
- An ounce of fact (truth) is worth more than a pound of opinion.
- Discontentment makes rich people poor and contentment makes poor people rich.
- A person with a narrow mind and wide mouth can cause a lot of trouble.
- Love does not work ill to its neighbor.

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## THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# A Small Church: The Benefits and the Challenges

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Classifying the size of a local church is somewhat of a subjective endeavor. What is “small” to one person, may be “large” to another and vice versa. I am using “small” in this article to refer to local churches that are less than 100 members in size. I have worked with small churches for most of my life and I can tell you from personal experience that there are benefits and challenges to being in small churches.

In the New Testament, we find large churches with thousands of members like the one in Jerusalem in Acts 4:4. We also find small churches like those which met in the homes of people (Romans 16:5). As long as Christians are faithful, the Lord is pleased either way with his people regardless of the size of the local church. However, I would like to focus on small churches in this article.

Small churches can be strong. Consider for a moment what is said about the small church in Philadelphia in Revelation 3:7-13. This church is only one of two churches in Revelation 2-3 that was commended and not condemned. They were small, but commended.

Here is a part of what Jesus said about them:

*<sup>7</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this: <sup>8</sup> ‘I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have followed My word, and have not denied My name. <sup>9</sup> Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and make them know that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup> Because you have kept My word of perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of the testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who live on the earth.*

When you read this account, you can be impressed with the positive commendation of a small church.

First, Jesus gave them an open door to continue to do their good work for the Lord. Second, Jesus recognized that they had followed his word and had not denied him. Third, they were faithful in a very wicked and worldly environment. Fourth, they were loved by Jesus. Fifth, Jesus said he would keep them and protect them from the hour of testing. Clearly, a small church can be faithful and commended by Jesus. The same is true today.

## The Benefits of a Small Church

What are the benefits of being a member of a small church. First, there is a stronger sense of family in a small church. The Lord’s church is a spiritual family and we can take care of each other better when the family is small (Mark 3:33-35; 10:28-30).

Second, there is a lesser chance of neglect in a small church. In a large church, members’ needs can be overlooked. This happened in the Jerusalem church (Acts 6:1). But, in a small church, we can look out for each other and help each other more readily (1 Thessalonians 5:14; Galatians 6:1-2).

Third, there is a greater sense of unity in a small church. Members can more easily band together and form close bonds in a small church to do the Lord’s work together (Ephesians 4:1-16).

Fourth, there is a greater opportunity for growth and involvement in a small church. More of the members can stay busy for there is much work for each member to do. They can serve and teach more in a small church (2 Timothy 2:2; Heb. 5:12 – 6:1).