

Funny and Serious Questions

How many Baptists does it take to screw in a light bulb? Answer: One to change it and the rest to bring a pot luck meal.

A more serious question is how many church members does it take to bring one lost person to salvation? The ratio of members to baptisms is one of the tools used today for measuring church growth. The goal is a low ratio of members to baptisms. A low ratio means more of your members are living on mission, sharing Jesus with lost people.

It actually takes only one Christian to tell one lost person how to be saved. That means that in high ratio churches many people are not sharing Jesus with friends and family, coworkers and schoolmates.

Churches that not only talk about reaching out, but actually spend a great amount of their time, money, training, and prayer on doing so have much lower baptism ratios. Conversely, churches that have many programs and ministries often are too widespread in what they emphasize and evangelism gets less attention than it could. The baptism ratio at these churches is higher.

The church can do more to help you be a witness, but remember: You are the church. So how many lost people are on your prayer list? How many lost people are on your family prayer list? How many of the lost people you are praying for as a family have been in your home in the last year? How are you seeking to build friendships with them in which sharing Jesus would be a natural part of that friendship? How many times a month do you talk to these people you are praying for? How often do you invite them to attend church with you? Have you told them how Jesus has changed your life?

The goal here is not to compare ourselves with others or other churches. The goal is to be more effective disciples in Christ's kingdom. Let's work together to bring our ratio down this year.

--Pastor Robin