

OUR THREE PRIORITIES

Healthy Christians and churches are guided by three priorities:

PRIORITY #1: Progressive commitment to JESUS CHRIST

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish and it shall be done for you. By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples. Just as the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full" (John 15:7-11).

- It involves: ABIDING...deepening your relationship with God by practicing spiritual disciplines and **bearing fruit**. *Overstress can produce PHARISEES

PRIORITY #2: Progressive commitment to the FAMILY OF CHRIST

"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father, I have made known to you" (John 15:12, 13, 15b).

- It involves: LOVING...deepening relationships with others in your birth family and rebirth family by sharing joys and **bearing burdens**. *Overstress can produce PARASITES

PRIORITY #3: Progressive commitment to the WORK OF CHRIST

"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.... When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me, and you will bear witness also..." (John 15:18, 19, 26, 27a).

- It involves: GOING...serving others and sharing in word and deed who God is and what He's done—**bearing witness**. *Overstress can produce TASK-ORIENTED people

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