

Rediscover CHURCH

Why the Body of Christ Is Essential



CHAPTER 8/9

PART 1: HOW DO WE LEAD OUTSIDERS?

LEADERS ASK: Is it the church's job to train their people to go out and evangelize and disciple those in their community? or to coax those people into coming to the church so the pastors can do that?

LEADERS ASK SOMEONE TO READ MATTHEW 28:18-20

- **EXPLAIN:** We see in this dialogue from Jesus to the disciples that they are to go out and "turn outsiders into insiders (117)". This starts within their own small inner circles and goes out into the world.
- We obviously know that these first few church leaders that Jesus was addressing could not evangelize the whole world. So we know that they were training others to go and help with the task.

LEADERS ASK: So should we forsake any kind of evangelistic events or opportunities as a local church?

- The answer is obviously, no!

LEADERS EXPLAIN:

- The church's first job is love God. By loving God, the church has the responsibility to train the "insiders". The pastors train the leaders (SS Teachers, LifeGroup leaders, Student leaders etc.) the leaders train members, and we train each other from bottom to top and top to bottom.
- The second job is we love people, or the outsiders in our community. We must use the things we learn in the church to reach these outsiders. We must do the work of evangelism and discipleship in our community. People are not as easy to get to church in this current culture, so we have to take the church to them.

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- If we are doing the mission that Christ tasked us with as the church, as an embassy of heaven, then outsiders will take notice. The way the church operates, the way the church serves, and the way the church interacts with outsiders, if done in a biblical manner, will be extremely odd to the world and cause some to want to know what is different. We see in scripture that some will be transformed through the church and some will hate it. Regardless it will cause people to make a decision based on the peculiar way it looks to the watching world.
- Our actions as a healthy church living in gospel community will look weird to outsiders and make many curious what is going on!

LEADERS ASK: So does the church exist for insiders or outsiders? The answer is both. Paul says, "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to **everyone**, and especially to those who are of the household of faith" Gal. 6:10.

- If the church is training the insiders in a manner that it should, the insiders should go out into the world being a beacon of light. Some will reject the light but the light will be there and attract others to come and see what the light is all about.
- POST COVID church has changed. The numbers can be discouraging with 33% of Gen Z saying they have no religious affiliation.
- We must be the church outside of the 4 walls of the building.

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PART 2: WHO LEADS?

LEADERS ASK: When you hear the word "pastor" what is the first thing comes to mind?

LEADERS HAVE SOMEONE READ EPHESIANS 4:11-16

- What does Paul tell us here that is the job of the pastors/ elders of the church? ANSWER: To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ (v.12).
- The pastor's job is to equip the saints TO DO THEIR JOB (127)! And everyone has a job.

LEADERS ASK: Looking back at Ephesians 4 what are the 2 things that set pastors/ elders apart? ANSWER: 1. KNOW THE WORD (TEACH) and 2. BE THE EXAMPLE

KNOW THE WORD

LEADERS EXPLAIN:

- It is not necessary that all pastors preach in the pulpit. Paul doesn't give a requirement for this. It says they should be able to teach.
 - A perfect example of this is an elder being able to guide a member biblically through a difficult time or answer difficult questions in a biblically responsible manner.
 - In short, they don't have to preach as much as they need to have an understanding of the Bible so that they can interpret that and instruct others from the Bible.
 - Teaching as referenced from Paul in Ephesians and in his other letters is described as a slow day to day, repetitious work of seeking to grow people in godliness. Pastors don't force godliness, they teach it. (129)

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BE THE EXAMPLE: READ 1 PETER 5:1-3

- Peter tells us that pastors shepherd the flock by being an example.
- If we look at the characteristics of pastors/ elders in 1 Tim. or Titus, it is the characteristics all Christians should possess. The only exception to the list is they should be mature believers and be able to teach.
- So other than teaching, the pastors/ elders life should be something that others are able to copy!
- The difference in a pastor/ elder and a member is the maturity in his example, and this example is something the members can obtain.

LEADERS ASK: Do you think most people there is a hierarchy to the church where Pastors are at the top and members are just sort of peasants to the kingdom? How can we dispel this through the text in 1 Timothy and Titus?

Summary of what it means to Rediscover Church:

- **Come ready to work - church is not about us and its not a place to come a 'rest'.**
- **Encourage others not to shop for churches. Shopping presents the idea, a customer is always right mentality.**
- **Just show up consistently and care for others.**
- **Be prepared to be challenged - if you are never challenged you are not growing in your humility which means you are not becoming holy as God is holy.**
- **Understand the importance of the institution of the church and how formative it is in our faith preparing us for the new creation.**