



GOD'S DESIGN

A Community on Mission

A COMMUNITY THAT HAS A PURPOSE BIGGER THAN ITSELF

A community that is a hospital where we come for growth & healing

Hebrews 3:12-13; Galatians 6:1-2

"Paul says the church is a body with Christ as its head. Our job is to change the body so that it matches the head. And we can't be the body of Christ on our own. We can't be mature on our own. Change is a community project. This means sin is always a community concern. My sin impedes the growth of the community as a whole. It stops us from growing together as the body of Christ. It has an impact on all of us. Even our private, secret sins affect the community. No one knew Achan had kept the robe, silver, and gold from the defeat of Jericho, but his sin led to defeat for God's people (Joshua 7). My sin stops me from playing the role God intends for me the way God intends, and this means that the church doesn't grow and reflect its head as God intends." - **Tim Chester, *You can Change*, page 152**

Q: What are some things that will be necessary of a church if it is to be an effective *hospital*?

A community that is a home-base where we launch into mission

John 17:18; Matthew 28:18-20

Q: What are some things that will be necessary of a church if it is to be an effective *home-base*?

Q: How might some of the challenges we have faced (pandemic, culture, and personal) impact the church being a home base?

"Our picture of kings is that they are cordoned off from the public, like the Ming Dynasty emperors of China living in their Forbidden City. In contrast, our King does not simply leave the castle door ajar, so a brave subject can enter unannounced. He goes out to the people in everyday garb and personally invites them to stay with him. Jesus is God in the flesh, who stepped down from his throne and entered into the affairs of daily life. In doing this, he removed all boundaries and barriers between him and us. God comes to us - that is grace, and it starts cycles of grace through the body of Christ. As the King goes, so go his people. He moves toward people who seek him and people who do not; we move toward those who want help and those who seem distant and marginalized. He moves toward friends and enemies; we move out beyond our circle of friends to those far beyond that circle." - **Edward T. Welch, *Side by Side*, page 74**

REFRAMING OUR EXPECTATIONS

We must reframe our expectations to match what God expects of us

→ *We are to be _____ to one another for a higher calling* - Hebrews 3:12-13

→ *We are to _____ not just take* - Ephesians 4:16

→ *We are to _____ with, _____ for, and _____ one another* - Ephesians 4:2; Galatians 5:13

→ *We are to _____ with one another for the kingdom to come* - Matthew 6:9; Ephesians 6:18

Q: In what ways do these expectations press against our culture?

Q: How might the Gospel empower us to embrace these expectations and move towards the mission God has given His people?

"You can't love until you have been loved and then you can only love to the degree you have been loved." - **Steve Brown**

WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

LOOK INWARD - Think about your own heart...

Q: How have you been engaged with the local church: just show up on Sunday, as mainly a hospital, as mainly a home base for mission, or both?

COMMIT TO A PEOPLE & A PLACE - Every stage of life brings challenges to engaging in Biblical community.

Q: Are you involved with both the church as a hospital and a home base? If not why? (It is ok to have an emphasis in one or the other but we are called to be involved with both)

EMBRACE EFFORT // AWKWARDNESS // PROCESS - Take a baby step...

Q: What would it look like for you to seek out accountability for your own spiritual life and engagement in God's mission?

"So I am writing for people like me, who are willing to move toward other struggling people but are not confident that they can say or do anything very helpful. If you feel quite weak and ordinary - if you feel like a mess but have the Spirit - you have the right credentials. You are one of the ordinary people God uses to help others.

As we get the knack of this rhythm - being needy and needed - Jesus will be in it and over it. He was weak before we were; he was dependent on his Father and dependent even on mere human beings. He also came to serve rather than to be served, and he did it side by side. As far as we are able, we do this with one another."

- **Edward T. Welch, *Side by Side*, page 13**