

ADULT SS
BACKGROUND &
PURPOSE

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“There’s a gorgeous simplicity to God’s design for the church. What does it take to make a church? Gospel preaching that creates gospel people who participate in gospel ordinances. The church is the shape into which the gospel and its ordinances form God’s people. **Baptism binds one to many, and the Lord’s Supper binds many into one.”** Baptism and the Lord’s Supper inscribe the gospel into the very shape and structure of the church. What makes many one are the signs of the gospel. **When Christians come together to form a church, they aren’t moving beyond the gospel but deeper into it.”**

Bobby Jamieson *How the Lord’s Supper Makes a Local Church* 4/28/16

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What does hypocrisy and nominalism do to the strength of the gospel and the trustworthiness of God's Word? What effect would this have on those trying to be faithful to the gospel?

- Weakens it
- Holy Spirit for our purposes and producing ungodly actions instead of our yielding to spirit (we move, not God)
- Look inside ourselves for something different
- Makes it easier to distort
- Create unnecessary barricades around gospel
- Assurance to those who shouldn't
- Adds fear to saying it's wrong
- Changes the definition because lost the center
- Make us concerned about "hearing His voice"
- God allows things that test our faith
- Hypocrisy produces distrust – watch danger of trusting your own judgement as final
- Nothing – but disconnects you from the power of the gospel

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What effect would this have on those trying to be faithful to the gospel?

- Should make you more dependent on God because you are affected by the disease you see around you – trust His sovereignty
- Should be slower to put foot down as final
- Makes it harder to clarify what is right and wrong
- Adds fear to saying it's wrong
- Faithful will look twisted/false
- Extra work to check into things/ fight cynicism and thoughts that nothing is solid
- Makes evangelism harder – calls for more precision
- A need to defend the gospel because of honor for author of it

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

How do we change? How SHOULD we change? (What's involved with biblical change that often gets overlooked in our change?)

DO:

- By falling down - failing, knocked from our stability
- Focus on ourselves with our growth; based on what is seen often due to external factors
- Responding to horizontal peer pressure
- From purpose other than Christ
- Quick, distracted, temporary, like rubber band
- When it fits, makes sense, benefits us (doesn't bring public shame)
- Stopping short of motives (watch extreme examples of hypocrisy keeping us from process of change)
- Independent means of change (before Lord/other)

SHOULD:

- Read & Do the word of God
- Examining roots of conflict to see values/loves
- Bond slave – seeking to serve, know His will, looking beyond just rote commands as we obey to honor
- Dying to self in our growth – outside examination
- Examine roots of wrong change
- Examine presence of God's tools for change
- From purpose: Christ
- Slow, rooted
- Be thankful for small but real change
- Get used to Gal 6:1-3; Rom 13:8; Rom 12
- Sometimes (consequences process) will be drastic Heb.12:5-10
- Glean from people we respect – how much II Tim 2:15; Ps 1 mediate on His law day/night
- Might appear backwards - I Cor 1
- i.e.) shouldn't feel hopeless as "Christian" when we sin/fall I Pet 5:6-7; I Cor 17
- Must include will, mind, emotion, spiritual

Together

Together

Dependent

Together

Dependent

Intentional

Together

process

Dependent

Intentional

Otherness

Slow

Messy

Slow

Messy

Slow

Awkward

Messy

Slow

Awkward

Inconsistent

Think Large, Live Small

Large Back Burner

Think Large, Live Small

Large Back Burner

Think Large, Live Small

**Give way for
Backward, Back**

Large Back Burner Think Large, Live Small

Servants

**Give way for
Backward, Back**

Large Back Burner Think Large, Live Small

Servants

Sacrifice

**Give way for
Backward, Back**

Dependence

Humility

Dependence

Humility

Dependence

Steadfast Plodding

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Dependent, Together, Intentional, Process, Otherness, Slow, Messy, Awkward, Inconsistent, Large back burner, Think large and live small, Always give way forward and way back, Servants, Sacrifice, Humility, Dependence, Steadfast Plodding

What comes to mind when you hear these words describing normal church life and growth?

- More than just “attending”/”listening”
- Focus off yourself
- Any untruth we live with creates a void that we are desperate to fill (distracting)
- Moves through the fleshly/“catty” to process of kingdom living
- No room for mindlessness
- Seems ugly/seems without glory
- 1 Peter 3:8,9
- Not how relationships work if eliminate hard/dark
- Not desirable, impossible to live, but would love for others to treat us like this
- Long time to change values



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Discipling, Evangelism, Raising up leaders, Church Planting, Missions. What is the root of these five things (the “germ” he talks about)? How does focusing on our churches being marked by loving God and loving others foster this germ?

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

What do we need to do to strengthen this germ/root of following Jesus in our lives individually and as a church?

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Why will following Jesus individually/together naturally result in a culture of discipling, evangelism, raising up leaders, church planting, and missions? (What is the tie? How do they flow from each other?)

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Underlying Assumptions/Goals in Adult SS for church as whole:

- 1. We must shift our focus from personal maturity and growth to building healthy churches.**
- 2. We must focus on the roots, not merely the fruit.**

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 9

CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021

IF we do NOTHING else together, the Collective People of God must:

- I. Worship God Together.** Romans 15:5-6
- II. Grow Individually and Corporately with a Growth that Comes from God.** Eph. 4:15-16
- III. Protect/Defend the Name of God—His character and Eternal Purposes.** II Tim. 1:13-14
- IV. Own the People in the Particular Expression of the Body of Christ where God has Placed you.** I Cor. 12:18, Eph. 4:16
- V. Spread the Glory of God** Hab. 2:14, I Pet. 2:9

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We have looked at public worship services, relationships, growth, culture, now finally, What would need to be lifted up/allowed if want to build healthy churches with strong roots in **faithful service?**

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Through the lens of these two goals, what were some of the changes hoped for by intentionally changing the goals during our *Future Grace* study leading to an 8 year study of that book? (longer studies over the years preceding)

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Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that **you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;**

Philippians 1:27

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, **² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.**

Philippians 2:1-2