



Pockets of Community

Week 1: Part 4
Date: Sunday 14th October 2018
Reading: Matthew 22:34-40

How do you make a ‘church’ (Gk. *ekklesia*: ‘called out ones’)

In Colossian 1:27 we read that God reveals the mystery of Christ to the ‘church’. How many people do you need and what do you need to do to make a church? In Matthew 18:20 Jesus tells us that when two or three gather in His name, He will be with them. Can this smaller pocket of community be considered ‘church’? Is ‘church’ more than this?

Discipleship is essential

We are not simply called to gather together as Christians, we are called to follow Jesus and make disciples. (Matt 28:19-20) Disciples are people who actively unpack and apply the teaching of Jesus to their everyday lives. What does it mean to actively unpack and apply the teaching of Jesus? How does that apply to children, seniors, educated and uneducated?

Why the emphasis on meeting together/gathering in pockets of community?

Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength, and the second is to love your neighbour as yourself – all of the law and prophets hang on these two commands.

Love is always central with God. Do you agree? (Jn 3:16, 1Jn 4:7-17, 1 Cor 13:13)

‘If you love Jesus you will follow him’ – is that true?

The Pharisees in Jesus time put knowing and following the commands of God central. What is the strength and weakness of putting this central? (1Cor 13:1-3)

Make a ‘church’

A helpful illustration (parable) is to identify the two essential ingredients. The first and starting point - gathering because we love God and each other (hoop 1), the second is discipleship (actively unpacking and applying Jesus’ teaching) (hoop 2).

‘Church’ happens in the overlap.

What is the overlap? The overlap is not necessarily a bible study, a church service or a formal act of worship. In its simplest state it is meeting in Jesus’ name (Mt 18:20).

How many ‘overlap’ groups are you in? Do the groups that more purposefully include discipleship help you grow more? Is there benefit in being part of a group that has ‘little’ overlap?

What is the weakness and strength of viewing ‘church’ as when these two ‘hoops’ overlap?

If God reveals the mystery of Christ to His ‘church’ (ecclesia) what happens if we don’t meet together in Jesus’ name?



Notes