

What
GRACE
 is All About



BECOMING A HEALTHIER CHURCH FAMILY

October 14 & 15, 2023

The Unhealthy Church Pattern

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- Get excited about the church**
- Get involved in the church**
- Discover my church's imperfections**
- Get discouraged but never address my issues**
- Leave my church and take the baggage with me**

Colossians 1:3-20 (NLT)

We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News. This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace. You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf. He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you. So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

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Colossians 1:3-20 (NLT) *continued*

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

BECOMING A HEALTHIER CHURCH IS THE RESULT OF:

1

Unconditional acceptance

Colossians 1:6 (TPT)

This is the wonderful message that is being spread everywhere, powerfully changing hearts throughout the earth, just like it has changed you! Every believer of this good news bears the fruit of eternal life as they experience the reality of God's grace.

Romans 15:7 (NLT)

Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.

Hebrews 12:5-6 (GW)

You have forgotten the encouraging words that God speaks to you as his children: "My child, pay attention when the Lord disciplines you. Don't give up when he corrects you. The Lord disciplines everyone he loves. He severely disciplines everyone he accepts as his child."

2

Conflict resolution

Colossians 1:6-7 (TPT)

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Matthew 18:15-17 (TPT)

"If your fellow believer sins against you, you must go to that one privately and attempt to resolve the matter. If he responds, your relationship is restored. But if his heart is closed to you, then go to him again, taking one or two others with you. You'll be fulfilling what the Scripture teaches when it says, 'Every word may be verified by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' And if he refuses to listen, then share the issue with the congregation in hopes of restoration. If he still refuses to respond, even to the church, then you must disregard him as though he were an outsider, on the same level as an unrepentant sinner."

4-Step Plan for Restoration:

- **Go to the offender or offended before going to ANYONE else.**
- **Take 2 or 3 objective, wise, and godly witnesses.**
- **Let the congregation help.**
- **Treat the offender with tough love until there is repentance.**

Matthew 7:3-5 (GW)

So why do you see the piece of sawdust in another believer's eye and not notice the wooden beam in your own eye? How can you say to another believer, "Let me take the piece of sawdust out of your eye," when you have a beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! First remove the beam from your own eye. Then you will see clearly to remove the piece of sawdust from another believer's eye.

3

Infectious love

Colossians 1:8 (TPT)

He's informed us of the many wonderful ways love is being demonstrated through your lives by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 13:1 (NIV)

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters.

Colossians 3:14 (GW)

Above all, be loving. This ties everything together perfectly.

Romans 5:8 (TPT)

But Christ proved God's passionate love for us by dying in our place while we were still lost and ungodly!

4

Explosive service

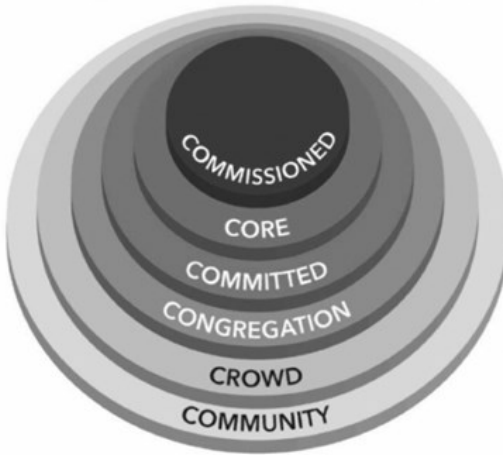
Colossians 1:10-11 (TPT)

We pray that you would walk in the ways of true righteousness, pleasing God in every good thing you do. Then you'll become fruit-bearing branches, yielding to his life, and maturing in the rich experience of knowing God in his fullness! And we pray that you would be energized with all his explosive power from the realm of his magnificent glory, filling you with great hope.

Romans 12:6-8 (MSG)

If you preach, just preach God's Message, nothing else; if you help, just help, don't take over; if you teach, stick to your teaching; if you give encouraging guidance, be careful that you don't get bossy; if you're put in charge, don't manipulate; if you're called to give aid to people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond; if you work with the disadvantaged, don't let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face.

STAGES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH



PURPOSE

Sharing Christ
Knowing Christ
Loving His Family
Growing In Christ
Serving Christ
Going For Christ

The Community:

- Everyone within 30 minutes driving distance
- Has attended one Grace or outreach event at least once in the past year

The Crowd:

- Has attended one service out of every five weeks or watched online

The Congregation:

- Class 101 graduates
- Signed Membership Covenant

The Committed:

- Class 201 graduates
- Signed Maturity Covenant

The Core:

- Class 301 graduates
- Actively serving in ministry

The Commissioned:

- Class 401 graduates
- Signed Missions Covenant
- Has served in local and/or global missions



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Get _____ about the church

Get _____ in the church

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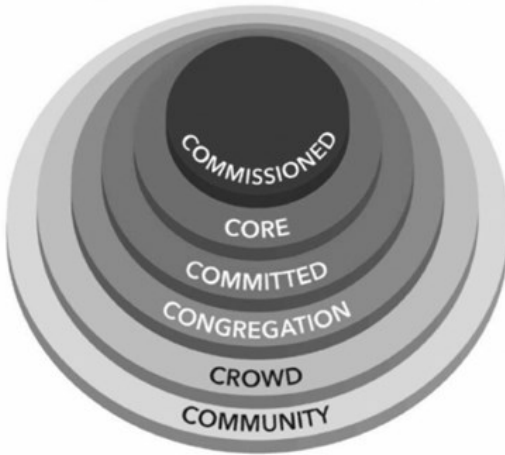
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