

## My Church

### The Essential Series – Core in Membership

#### What is Church? What are we doing?

- Church is an assembly of God's people.
- It is a place where there is a distinction between God's chosen people and those who reject God.
- The word for 'church' in our English bibles is a translation of the greek word *ἐκκλησία* It comes from two greek words joined together *καλεο* meaning 'to call' and *εκ* meaning 'out' –the word 'church' really means to those who are 'called out by God' to join together as his people – the followers of his son.

(c.f. Matt. 16:18; Acts 5:11; 8:1, 3; 13:1; 14:23, 27; 18:22; 19:40; 20:28; Rom. 16:5; 1 Co. 14:4; 15:9; Gal. 1:13; Eph. 5:25, 27, 29, 32; Phil. 3:6; Col. 4:15)

- Look at Acts 4:32-37.

What are the marks of this church?

Would you say there was a high commitment level? Why?

#### Compare Ananias and Sapphira in 5:1-11

There is no command here that they should sell all they had – why the issue?

What response did it engender in the church?

#### Look at 5:12-16

Note that 'No-one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people'

Strange growth strategy, yet the church grew and the church offered something.

- The church is a place where the stranger can be addressed and welcomed,
  - But it should not be a place where their influence should be allowed to be greater than God's influence.
  - Here is the tension between belief and belonging. We want people to feel as if they belong, but they will only truly belong when they believe in Christ.
- It is a family. It is a place where 'worship' is exercised. It is a place where the people of God, serve him and others before themselves. See Col 3:15-17.

- **QUESTION:** Is this a picture of 5pm Church? Could we learn anything from the early church?

**Under God, because of him and for his glory,** we aim to...

**1. GROWTH & VISION**

Develop a 10 year vision of Bible-based gospel ministry to reach Adelaide city and beyond and double the size of Trinity City.

**2. OUTREACH**

Develop an outward focussed evangelistic culture at Trinity City in new and different ways.

**3. DISCIPLESHIP**

Develop a broad-based discipleship program with clearly articulated content to teach and train mature disciples who make disciples of Jesus.

LOVE GOD

KNOW GOD

SERVE GOD & OTHERS

GROW GOD'S KINGDOM

**[Ask the group] What does it mean to be a member at 5pm Church?**

- *Christian*
- *Present*
- *Active*
- *Serving/Giving*
- *Loving/Caring*

**What is the value on being clear about membership?**

- discipleship
- encouragement
- teach, rebuke, correct and train together.

It is very difficult to love, serve and care for someone if they are not there, they don't hold the same values that you do, and their expectations are different.

### **How does one become a 'member' at 5pm Church?**

1. They are invited/ they come.

2. They are welcomed.

Helping someone to feel comfortable – so that they may be receptive to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ from a group of people who may at first be strangers but could quickly become brothers and sisters in Christ.

3. They come to know Christ.

4. They make 5pm Church their Christian family.