



CHURCH EXPLOSION

SERMON SERIES: RETHINKING THE CHURCH

Mark 1:14-20

The Big Picture: *We've been building this for weeks. A healthy church one where Christ is the center, every member functions, the Great Commission and the Great Commission mold the behavior of the people to serve others, grow in God, build others, and reach out to the world.*

1. A healthy church is connected to wider church.

wider church. The churches of various cities and regions talked about and to each other, they knew what was happening with each other, they related together, were concerned for each other, communicated, interacted with and encouraged one another - *Rom. 1:8; 16:19; 1 Cor. 16:19-20; 2 Cor. 8:1-8, 18-24; 9:13; 13:12; Gal. 1:22-24; Phil. 4:21-22; Col. 1:4; 4:10-15; 1 Thess. 1:7-9; 2:2, 14;*

2 Thess. 1:4; Tit. 3:15; Philem. 5; Heb. 13:24; 1 Pet. 5:13; 2 John 13; 3 John 3, 12, 14.

- a. They genuinely considered themselves a part of one another. Like the individual members of a body, they knew they needed each other - *1 Cor. 12:21.*
- b. The churches prayed for each other - *Rom. 8:27; 15:30-31; 2 Cor. 1:11; 9:14; Eph. 6:18-19; Phil. 1:19; Col. 4:3-4; 1 Thess. 5:25; 2 Thess. 3:1.*
- c. When needed, they helped each other financially - *Rom. 15:25-27; 1 Cor. 16:1-3; 2 Cor. 8:1-9:15; 11:9.*
- d. They were hospitable towards Christians from other churches, especially towards the traveling workers - *Rom. 12:13; 16:1-2; Phil. 1:5; 4:3, 10-19; Col. 1:4; 3 John 5-8 .*
- e. They exchanged the same ministry back and forth - *Rom. 16:1-2, 3-23; 1 Cor. 16:5-12, 15-18; 2 Cor. 7:6-15; 8:18-24; 9:1-5; 11:9; 12:17-18; Eph. 6:21-22; Phil. 2:19, 23-25, 29; Col. 1:7; 2:1; 4:7-9, 10, 12-13, 16; 2 Tim. 4:10-12, 19-21; Tit. 3:12-13; Philem. 23-24; Heb. 13:23; 2 John 9-12; 3 John 3, 9-10, 12; Rev. 2:2.*
- f. They fought for the unity of doctrine among them all - *1 Cor. 4:17; 11:16; 14:33; Gal. 1:6-8; Phil. 3:17; Col. 1:6, 23, 25-28; 1 Tim. 2:8; 2 Tim. 3:12-13; Tit. 2:11; Tit. 3:8; Heb. 13:9; 1 John 2:18-27; 4:1-6; 2 John 7-11; Jude 3.*
- g. They also had a strong sense of sharing in each other's sufferings - *1 Thess. 2:14; 2 Tim. 3:12; Heb. 13:3; 1 Pet. 5:9.* The spiritual unity of the early churches was expressed in many practical ways.

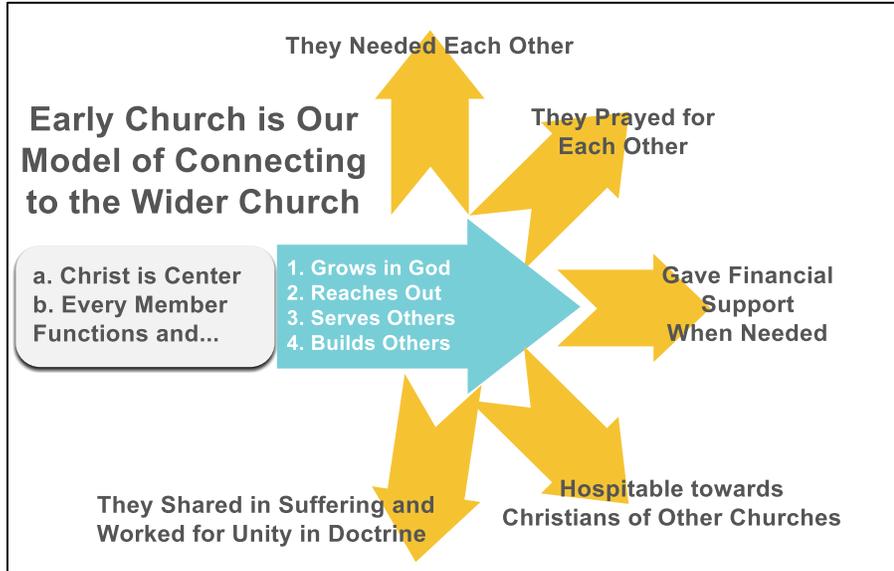
But, how does all that happen? Answer: it is a healthy church.

2. A healthy church smells the kingdom (Mark 1:14-15).

3. Healthy church members are called to: (Mark 1:16-20)

- a. Follow
- b. Leave Behind
- c. Something!

4. A healthy church knows that God has invaded their life, community, and the world.



LifeGroup Worksheet

AUGUST 9, 2020

1. Reflect- *How has God been working in your life? How has He provided, comforted, answered, reconciled or guided you? Be open to sharing both your successes and struggles.*

2. Review - LifeNotes on opposite side.

3. Read - **Mark 1:14-20** *carefully several times, both with your group and alone.*

4. Engage and Explore - *Try to answer at least one question.*

- a. The disciples had previous interactions with Jesus which prepared them to respond to this life-changing invitation to “follow me.” Can you think of one or two significant encounters you had with Jesus or a Christian that influenced your decision to follow Jesus?
- b. As you think of one of your favorite bosses, coaches or teachers, what was it about them that made it easy to follow their advice or example?
- c. What did Jesus tell the people they must do besides believe His good news? (1:15)
- d. How did Jesus get people to follow Him? (1:17)
- e. Review 1a-g. What do you like on the list? Why? What would you like to be part of?

5. Connect - *how this passage applies to you and your relationship to Jesus and others. How is the Holy Spirit speaking to you through this passage? Try to answer at least one question.*

- a. What are some specific ways of interaction among churches you have seen that are unhealthy? What is the impact on the churches and leaders involved?
- b. What are some specific ways of interaction among churches you have seen that are healthy? What are the benefits on the churches and leaders involved?
- c. Have you ever thought you had gifts for others that could help them? How far out can you extend your contacts to include sharing gifts with people in other churches or places?
- d. How does the model of the early church fly in the face of our understanding that we are in competition with other churches?
- e. What would it mean if we were more concerned with the Kingdom and following Jesus than maintaining and keeping a church running? What might happen?

6. Silent Meditation - *You may want to move away from the group to a quiet spot. Silently read the scripture several more times. Write down the words/passage you want to focus on this week and how you plan to apply God’s truth to your life. What is God saying and what will you do?*

7. Share- *Key insights with your group from question #6.*

8. Close in Prayer- *Try using different prayer models found in the LifeGroup Leader Handbook*

