



Thousands of healthy, evangelistic, multiplying churches

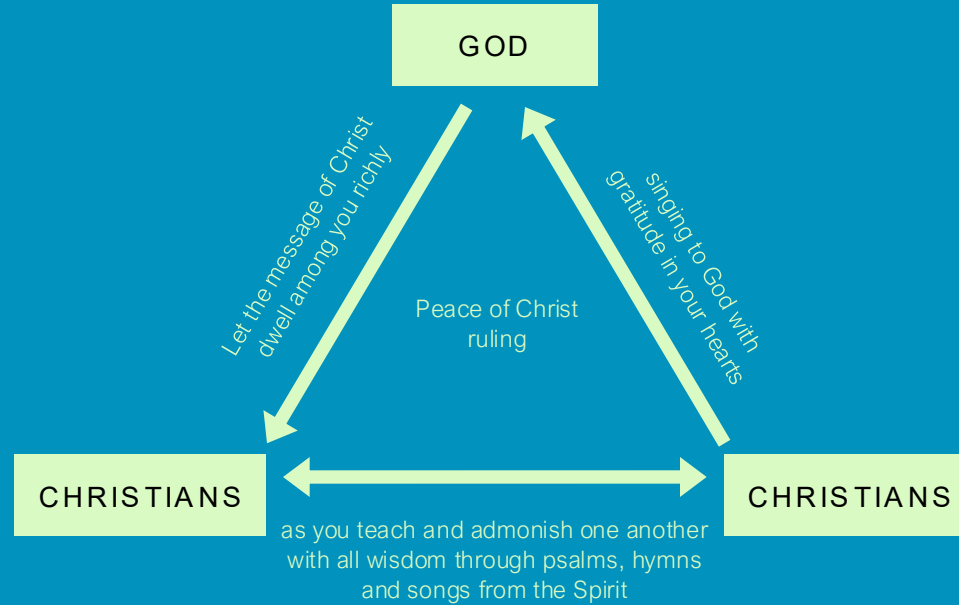
Loving God: Warmth and Depth In the Gathering

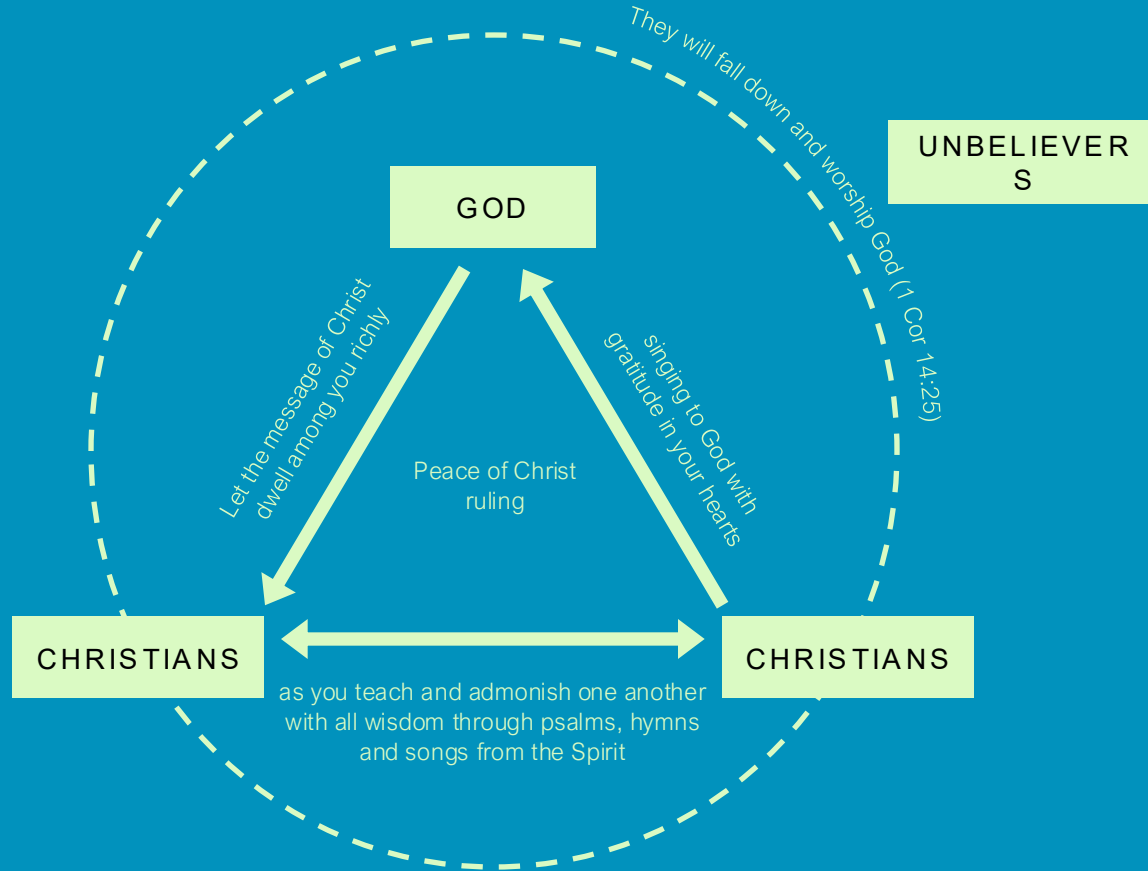
Toby Neal and Liv Chapman Leggett

Discussion

- ***Share your name, role and church.***
- ***What aspects of your regular service do you feel connect best with an unbeliever? Is there anything that makes you cringe during the service if you know an unbeliever is there?***
- ***Is there anything specific you want to get out of this workshop?***

Part 1: The Purpose of our Gatherings





Part 2: The Importance of Gospel Culture

Discussion

What do you think is the defining feature or characteristic of your church culture? When an unbelieving visitor walks in, what is the predominant vibe?

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- Gospel culture is gospel doctrine that is felt and seen

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- Gospel culture is gospel doctrine that is felt and seen
- It is possible to preach the gospel while, at the same time, at worst, utterly deny the gospel by an ugly anti-gospel culture, and at best, undermine our doctrine by displaying a joyless, cold, shallow gathering

Ray Ortlund
The Gospel



How wonderful it is to come every Sunday into a liberating church! All week long we swim in an ocean of judgment and negative scrutiny. We constantly have to comply with the demands of a touchy world, and we never measure up...

Then, on Sunday, we walk into a new kind of community where we discover an environment of grace in Christ alone. It is so refreshing. Sinners like us can breathe again! It's as if God simply changes everyone's topic of conversation from what's wrong with us, which is plenty, to what's right with Christ, which is endless.

He replaces our negativity, finger-pointing, and self-hatred with the good news of his grace for the undeserving. Who couldn't come alive in a community that's constantly inhaling that heavenly atmosphere?

Part 3: Deep and Warm

***How do we ensure our services
are a display of the gospel?***



Depth

Depth is about God and his word, the truth, the gospel. We don't want it light and superficial. We want depth of faith and hope and love, biblical depth.

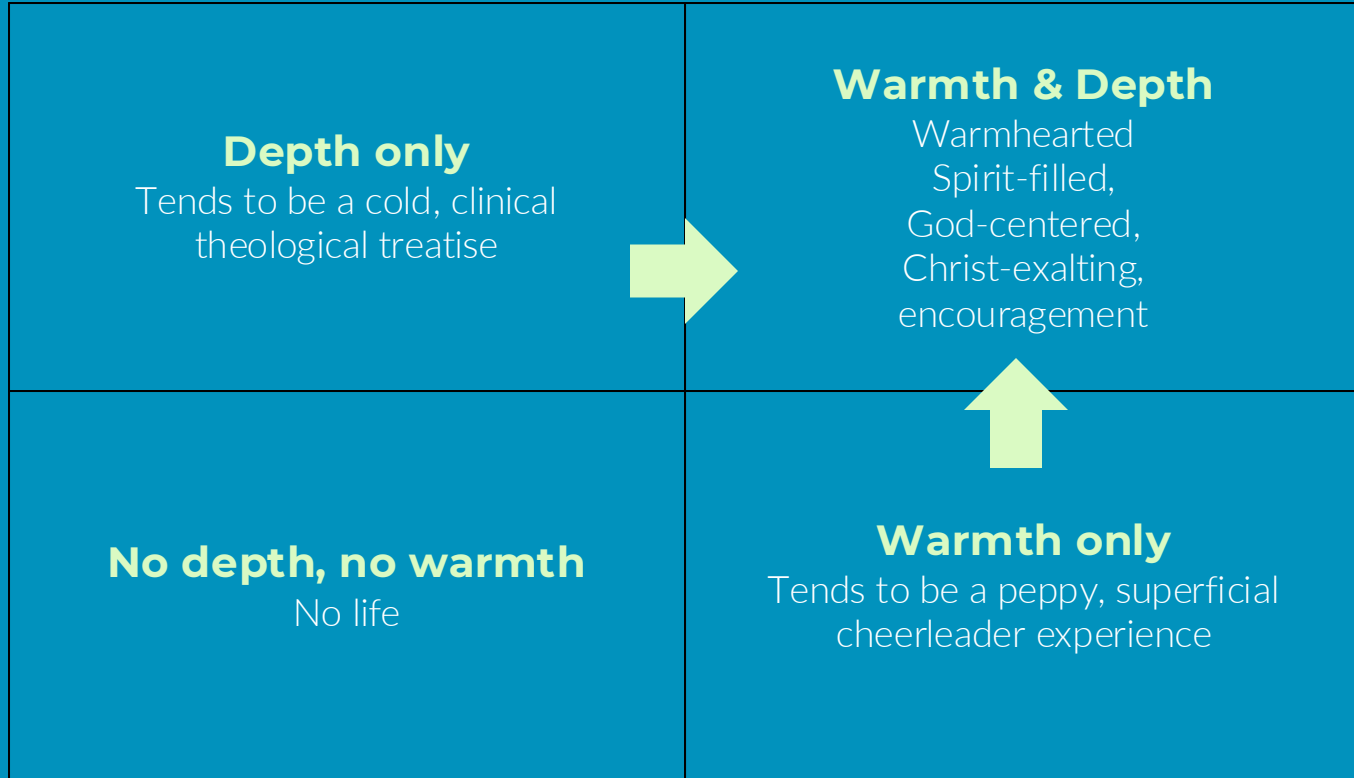


Warmth

Warmth is about treating people with the grace that we have received. It's about being personal and relational and emotionally intelligent.



Depth



Warmth





Depth

1. What is God doing in this moment?
2. How is his grace being communicated to us?
3. Dig for ***the gospel moment!***



Don't be a teacher



Warmth

1. How are you responding in this moment?
2. What are we doing in this moment?
3. Dig for ***the human moment!***



Don't be a cheerleader

Discussion

Does “warmth” of “depth” come more naturally to you?

What aspects of your church services might need more depth or more warmth?

Part 4: The How-To



Part 4: The How-To





Part 4: The How-To

Part 5: Mission Particularities

- Speak as though unbelievers are in the room
 - Welcome them, and express delight that they are there, and speak in a way that they realise they aren't the only person exploring. It's normal for them to be there.
 - Don't label them: use verbs not nouns,
 - ✗ "If you are a not a Christian"
 - ✓ "If you are exploring these things"
 - Speak/pray in an invitational way
 - Avoid theological jargon or Christian acronyms

Part 5: Mission Particularities

- Treat their worldview with respect even as you dismantle it
 - Remove drive-by / back-handed comments about the secular worldview (E.g. “those rainbow / alphabet people”, feminism, cat ladies, toxic masculinity, abortion etc
 - 8-minute rule

Part 5: Mission Particularities

- Help them navigate ambiguous or awkward moments (eg. Lord's Supper)
- Make Question Time a priority and answer questions respectfully. Always answer the most upvoted question or you will lose trust.
- Provide a clear, warm and invitational next step
 - If you've never read a Bible for yourself as an adult, we would love to give you one, you can pick one up on the back table on the way out. There's also a bunch of free books for those who are exploring these things...
 - Regular invitations to Life / Christianity Explored

Part 5: Mission Particularities

- Connect to what they are looking for, not what we are offering
 - ✗ “Come to Life. It’s on Wednesday night in the hall.
We need to know numbers this week so let us know you are coming.”
 - ✓ “If you are exploring these things, have a bunch of questions, and want a relaxed environment over meal where you can explore, without any pressure, we would love to invite you to Christianity Explored...”

Part 6: Next Steps

- Schedule a weekly meeting with a team to look back and review the service and look forward and plan for Sunday and future weeks

Review and Plan

Questions to Evaluate Gospel and Missional Culture

1. Did the service communicate gospel values and embody gospel culture?
2. Would a Christian invite a friend to this?
3. Would a non-Christian come again?

Review and Plan

Questions to Evaluate Depth

1. **Was it penetrating:** Did the truth of God's word confront us with power, authority and grip our hearts?
2. **Was it productive:** Did the word of God cut like a double edged sword: both cutting and healing, charming and changing?
3. **Was it fresh:** Was the gospel spoken with freshness and clarity, or was it predictable and sentimental?
4. **Was it appropriate:** Was it appropriate in tone for the moment (e.g. lament, celebration, conviction)?
5. **Was it magnifying Jesus:** Did it humble us and magnify Jesus?

Review and Plan

Questions to Evaluate Warmth

1. **Was it relevant:** Did it connect emotionally, showing the gospel is for us and now? Uses “we” language, real-life examples, affective tone.
2. **Was it personal:** Did it honour people’s presence, needs, and experience? Was relational and aware of the people in the room?
3. **Was it authentic:** Did it come across authentic and real? Or was it overly scripted, robotic, or performative?
4. **Was it engaging:** Did it encourage or invite a response? Warmth invites engagement — intellectually, emotionally, spiritually.

Review and Plan

1. Evaluate your gospel and missional culture
2. Evaluate your service elements and ask: 'Was it deep? Was it warm?'
3. Identity what problems need to be solved
4. Where are the areas that your people need training, feedback, encouragement or clearer instruction?
5. Planning this Sunday, what are the elements and how are we going to make them deep and warm?
 - a. Interviews
 - b. Announcements / church news / notices

Q&A

Prayer In Response



Reach Australia's National Conference 2025

URGENT

The Necessary Task of Mission Before Christ Returns

19-22 May 2025



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