



HEAVEN IN SPAIN

School of Transformation Church and the Kingdom

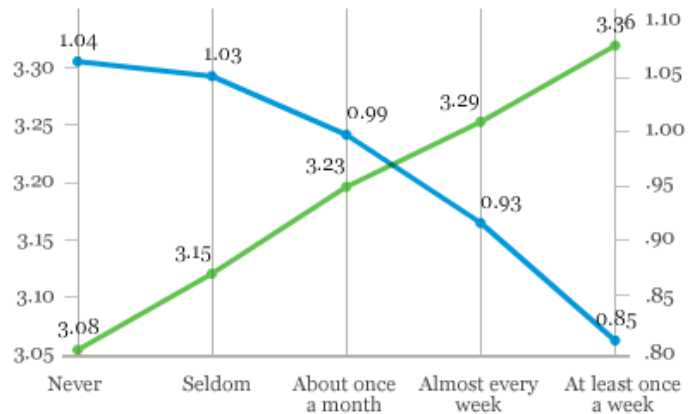
Session two – The nature and purpose of the church



Church and Mood

Average Number of Daily Positive and Negative Emotions, by Church Attendance

■ Positive ■ Negative



Jan. 2-Dec. 31, 2011

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Jesus on the church Matthew 16:15-19

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- ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”
- ¹⁶Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
- ¹⁷Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.
- ¹⁸And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- ¹⁹And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”



Every church’s mission statement (should be)

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- “Heaven on Earth”
- Or something similar
- Reinforces Matthew 6:9-10 “In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.”



A church's/ kingdom business/ believer's vision statement

- Should be about what role they are specifically called to in bringing the kingdom
- So whatever strategy, model or plan they adopt they should understand
 - The kingdom
 - Their role in bringing the kingdom, and
 - How they are progressing

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Activity and Outcomes

- All organisations, including churches should understand both
 - Their activity (how much they are doing and how well they are doing it), but more importantly
 - Their outcomes (Is anyone better off?)
- Most organisations (including churches) focus almost entirely on activity
 - They measure size of services, attendance at groups etc
 - They should be asking “are we making disciples” or “are we bringing the kingdom”

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The church and the kingdom

- Consider this
 - The church is the means
 - The kingdom is the end
- We need to build the church so that His kingdom comes to Earth (our universal mission)

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“Church” - What is it?

- “Church” is Greek “ekklesia”, which means “a *calling out*, that is, a popular *meeting*, especially a religious *congregation* (Jewish *synagogue*, or Christian community of members on earth or saints in heaven (Strong’s))
- The Greek term was already commonly used to indicate an assembly of citizens of a Greek city and is so used in Acts 19:32, 39.
- The citizens were conscious of their privileged status over slaves and noncitizens
- They called to the assembly by a herald and dealt in their meetings democratically with matters of common concern.
- When the early Christians understood themselves as constituting a church, no doubt exists that they perceived themselves as called out by God in Jesus Christ for a special purpose and that their status was a privileged one in Jesus Christ.

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The purpose of the church

• Matthew 16:18

- ¹⁸And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- The primary purpose of the church is to create a place of spiritual blessing
- “Hades” here represents the power of Satan

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The nature of the enemy

1. Murderer, liar, father of lies – John 8:44
2. Tempter (Matt 4)
3. Accuser of the brethren (Rev 12:10)
4. Deceiver (2 Cor 11:14)
5. Stealer of the Word (Mk 4:15)
6. Promoter of unforgiveness (2 Cor 2: 10, 11)
7. Oppressor (Acts 10:38)
8. Devourer (1 Pet 5:8)
9. Blinder of minds (2 Cor 4:4)
10. Promoter of anger (Eph 4:26, 27)

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1. The church is a spiritual building

• Ephesians 2:20-22

- ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.
- **Jesus is the chief cornerstone**
- The church should be a dwelling place for the Spirit where we and others benefit from this “corporate” anointing
- How are we being “fitted together” and “built together”?

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The church is a spiritual building - we are all the living stones

• 1 Peter 2:5

- “you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”
- Each person being spiritual is important to the corporate anointing in the house of God

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2. The church is a family

- 1 Timothy 5:1-2
- ¹Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, ²older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity.
- **The Father, is of course, the Father**
- “As a father”
- Matthew 23:9 “Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.”
- There are over 100 “one another’s” in the New Testament

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The church is a family – the one another’s of the NT include

- Loving one another as Christ loved us (John 13:34-35)
- Encouraging one another - (Heb 3:13; 10:24-25; 1 Thes 5:11)
- Admonishing one another (Rom 15:14; Col 3:16)
- Bearing with one another (Eph 4:1-3)
- Forgiving one another (Eph. 4: 32; Col 3:13)
- Serving one another (Gal 5:13; John 13:12-15)
- Submitting to one another (Eph 5:21; Phil 2:6-8)
- Being of the same mind toward one another (Phil 2:2),
- Accepting one another (Rom. 15:7)
- Honouring one another (Rom 12:10)
- Restoring one another (Gal 6:1-3; Matt 18:15-17).

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3. The church is a body of Christ

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27 ¹²“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many.....²⁷Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
- Romans 12:4-5 “For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another”
- We are built up by others of different giftedness to us
- Together we can bring the fullness of Jesus to people

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The church is a body of Christ

- Ephesians 1:22-23
- And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.
- Jesus is the head of the body

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The church is a body of Christ – equipping the body

- **Ephesians 4:11,12,16**
- **11** And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,
- **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,
- **16** from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

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4. The church is a household

- **1 Timothy 3:15**
- **15** I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.
- A household not only has relationships but responsibilities and roles
- **Bishops and Deacons (and Paul) are in charge of the household – see preceding passage in 1 Timothy**

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The church is a household of soldiers, athletes and farmers

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- **2 Timothy 2:3-6**

- You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops.

- **Philippians 2:25**

- Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need



5. The church is a bride

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- **Ephesians 5:25-27,32**

- ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish... ³²This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church

- The church is sanctified by Jesus
- **Jesus is the bridegroom of the bride**



The church is a bride - sanctification

- **Ephesians 1:4**
 - just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,
- **Romans 8:29-30**
 - For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.
- **Colossians 1:28-29**
 - Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

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The church is a bride sanctified by washing with the word

- Preaching (2 Tim. 4:1-3)
- Teaching (Acts 20:20; Col. 1:28-29)
- Admonishing (Rom. 15:14; Col. 1:28-29)
- Correcting (2 Tim. 4:2)
- Rebuking (2 Tim. 4:2)
- Encouraging/Exhorting (2 Tim. 4:2)
- Entrusting (2 Tim. 2:2-4)

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6. The church is the gate of heaven

- **Genesis 28:17**

- And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven

- **Ephesians 3:10**

- to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places

- **Jesus is the door to heaven**

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The church is the gate of heaven a witness

- **Wisdom and Grace - Colossians 4:5-6**

- Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

- **Good Works - Titus 3:1,8,14**

- (1) Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, (8) This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. (14) And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.

- **Honourable Conduct - 1 Peter 2:12**

- having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

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All these things cause the church to defeat Hades

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As a spiritual building

- It provides the abiding presence of God and so defeats the oppression of darkness (Acts 10:38)

As a family

- It provides godly relationships and defeats the accuser of the brethren (Rev 12:10), the promoter of anger (Eph 4:26) and the promoter of unforgiveness (2 Cor 2:10,11)

As a body

- It provides the opportunity to be helped and to help others and so resists the devourer (1 Peter 5:8)

As a household

- It provides an opportunity for accountability and responsibility and so resists the deception of the enemy (2 Corinthians 11:14, John 8:44)

As a bride

- It provides a place of sanctification where we are helped to resist the enemy's temptations (Matthew 4:1)

As a gate

- It provides a special place of access by heaven's forces and so helps us to wrestle the enemy's forces (Ephesians 6:12)



For the church to be a spiritual building

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• The church should have a "corporate" abiding anointing

- Understand the pattern set by Ephesians 2:19-22
- Understand what releases and houses the power of God (in the church)
- **How am I contributing to this aspect of the church?**



For the church to be a family

- The church should have loving relationships
- These are brother and sister relationships in the family
- **How am I contributing to this aspect of the church?**

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For the church to be a body

- The church needs to have its members functioning in their gifts and calling
- People should be helped to understand their gifts and calling
- People should be helped to be inter-dependent on others for the grace that comes through other's gifts and calling
- **How am I contributing to this aspect of the church?**

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For the church to be a household

- Church members need to have roles, responsibilities and accountability
- People should be helped to understand what is expected of them for the church to function as a household
- **How am I contributing to this aspect of the church?**

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For the church to be a bride

- People need to be helped to be sanctified
- Church members should be helped to be cleansed by the washing of the water (Ephesians 5:26) so that they have no spot or wrinkle
- **How am I contributing to this aspect of the church?**

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For the church to be a gate

- The church should facilitate heavenly encounters
- We should help lost and saved people encounter the Lord
- **How am I contributing to this aspect of the church?**