

Intro - Brief Overview of what we're talking about

Jesus is the foundation of the church and He said that "...I will build my church."

The church is not a building or place it's people, specifically people who have received Jesus and what He has done for their redemption, those who place their faith in Him and not in their own efforts.

His church is led by Elders and deacons... shepherds who oversee God's people and work, and we're accepting those who feel called to be either of these. There will be 6 weeks of initial training beginning on October 4th from 6:30 until 8:00 pm and you can sign up on our network.

This is His church built by His hand and we must cooperate with His plan in order to be the church that He desires us to be.

Psalms 127:1 Unless the Lord builds the House, it's builders labor in vain.

The church is people not a building - and to build His church He uses people and the shaping of their lives.

1 Peter 2:4-6 You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor.

5 And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. 6 As the Scriptures say, "I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for great honor, and anyone who trusts in Him will never be disgraced.

Let's study the blueprint of the "Spiritual Temple" that God is building: What's my place in His church and how is He shaping me to fit?

Acts 2:42-47 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. 43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Devoted -

1. Feeling or displaying strong affection or attachment; ardent: a devoted friend.
2. Having been consecrated; dedicated.

They were devoted to 4 Things Specifically: Apostles Teaching, Fellowship, Sharing in Meals "Communion", and Prayer.

1) Apostles Teaching - That equates to personal & group study of the Bible and the messages that are preached on Sundays... application of the word in your life, so that you live it as well as just hear it.

2) Fellowship - "Koinonia" - Relationship / Partnership / Companionship / Stewardship, because of the depth of the word you have to look at 4 different facets of the word.

A) Relationship - having a commonality that is based around being in relationship with Jesus. We belong to each other in relationship because we share together the common life and enabling grace of Christ.

B) Partnership - As sharers together of the person and life of Jesus, we are automatically co-partners in His enterprise here on earth. This includes promoting the Gospel and building up other followers of Christ.

C) Companionship - Communication or communion on a spiritual level both vertical - communion with Jesus daily, and horizontal - assembly together as a large group, small groups and one on one communicating truth together, building one another up, bearing one another's burdens, etc...

D) Stewardship - Realizing that I am a manager of what God has given me and I must be willing to share my material possessions for the promotion of the Gospel and to help those in need.

3) Sharing in Meals "Communion" - "The Lord's Supper" - Place where we live openly before God and each other. The place of intimate relationship where there is confession and repentance of sin, forgiveness through walking in the light of God's presence together.

1 John 1:5-7 This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. 6 So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. 7 But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:8-10 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. 9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

4) Prayer - Personal ongoing conversation with God along with times of group prayer for needs or thankfulness. Done in a position of unity and agreement it is the channel of God's power to flow in and through us.

V. 43 - A deep sense of awe came over them...

Because of their devotion to God and their fear of Him, He moved powerfully among them.

V. 44-47 - Shows the fulfillment of the mission of the church:

44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity...

Love God Matt 22:37-38; Love Each Other John 15:12-17 ; Love Your Neighbor Matt 22:39-40

Jesus has called us to; 1) The Gospel "Loving Our Lord", 2) The Culture "Loving Our Neighbor, & 3) The Church "Loving Our Brother"

Gospel + Culture = Parachurch

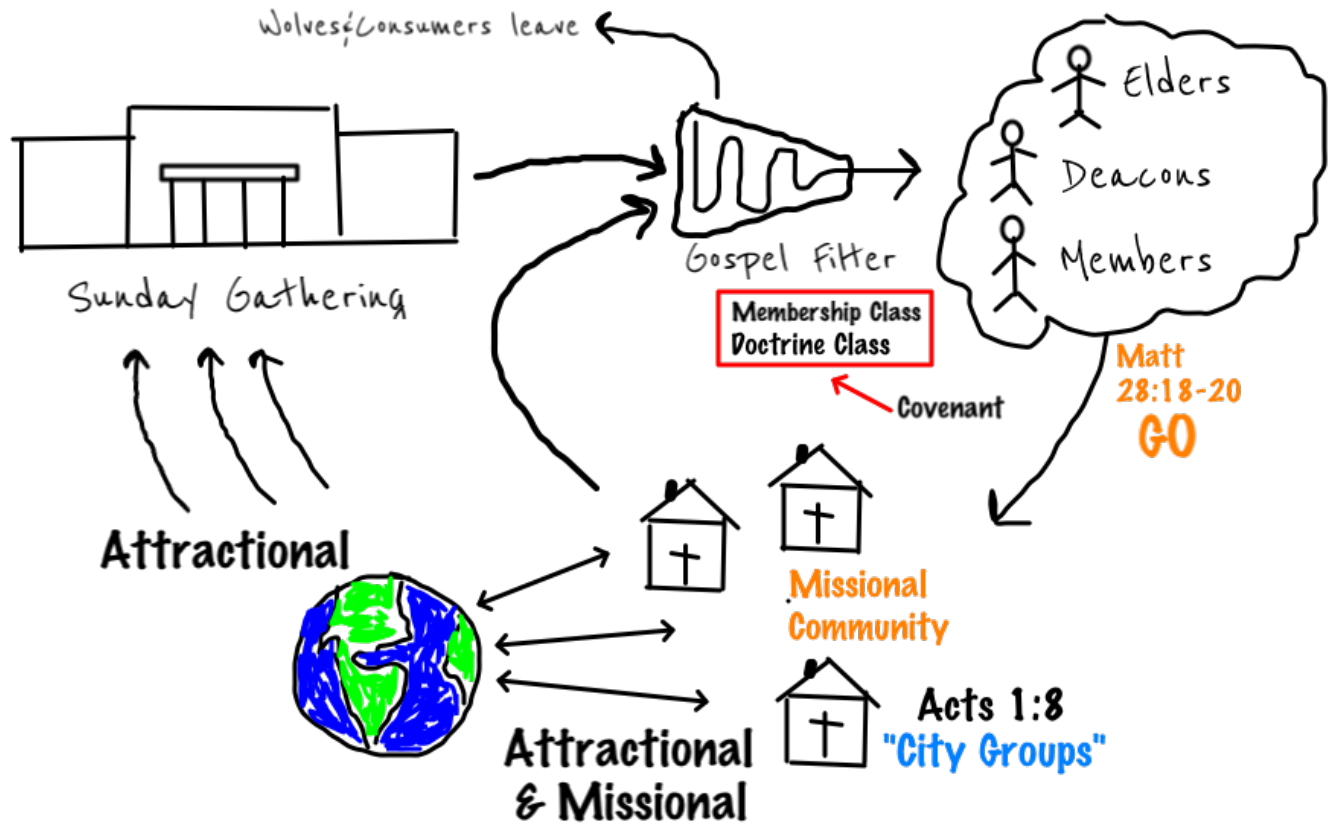
Culture + Church = Liberalism

Gospel + Church = Fundamentalism

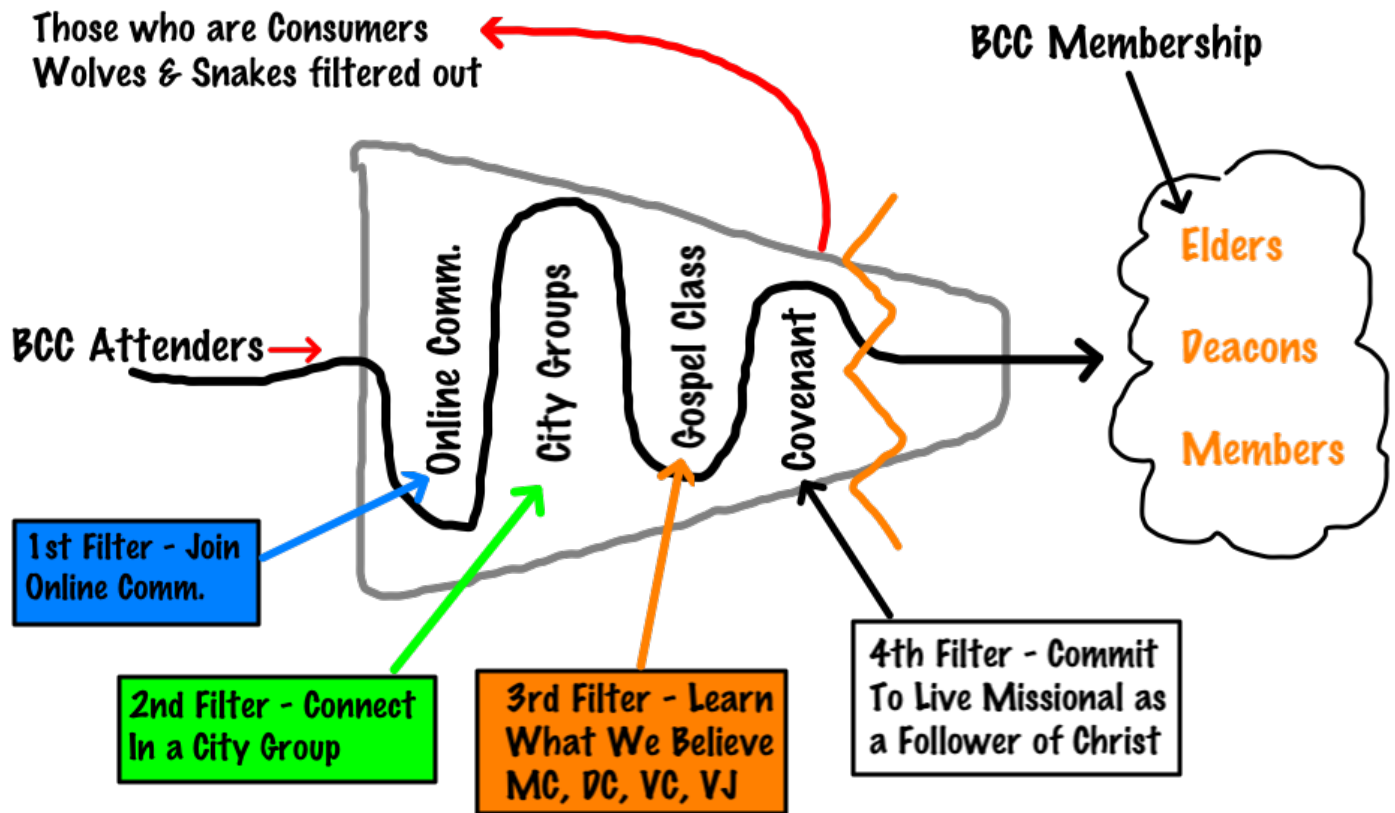
Gospel + Church + Culture = Missional

Let me show you what this means for us... where we're headed as a church in our structure and strategy to be on Mission with Jesus. Applying His blueprint to BCC so that we build in accordance with His plan.

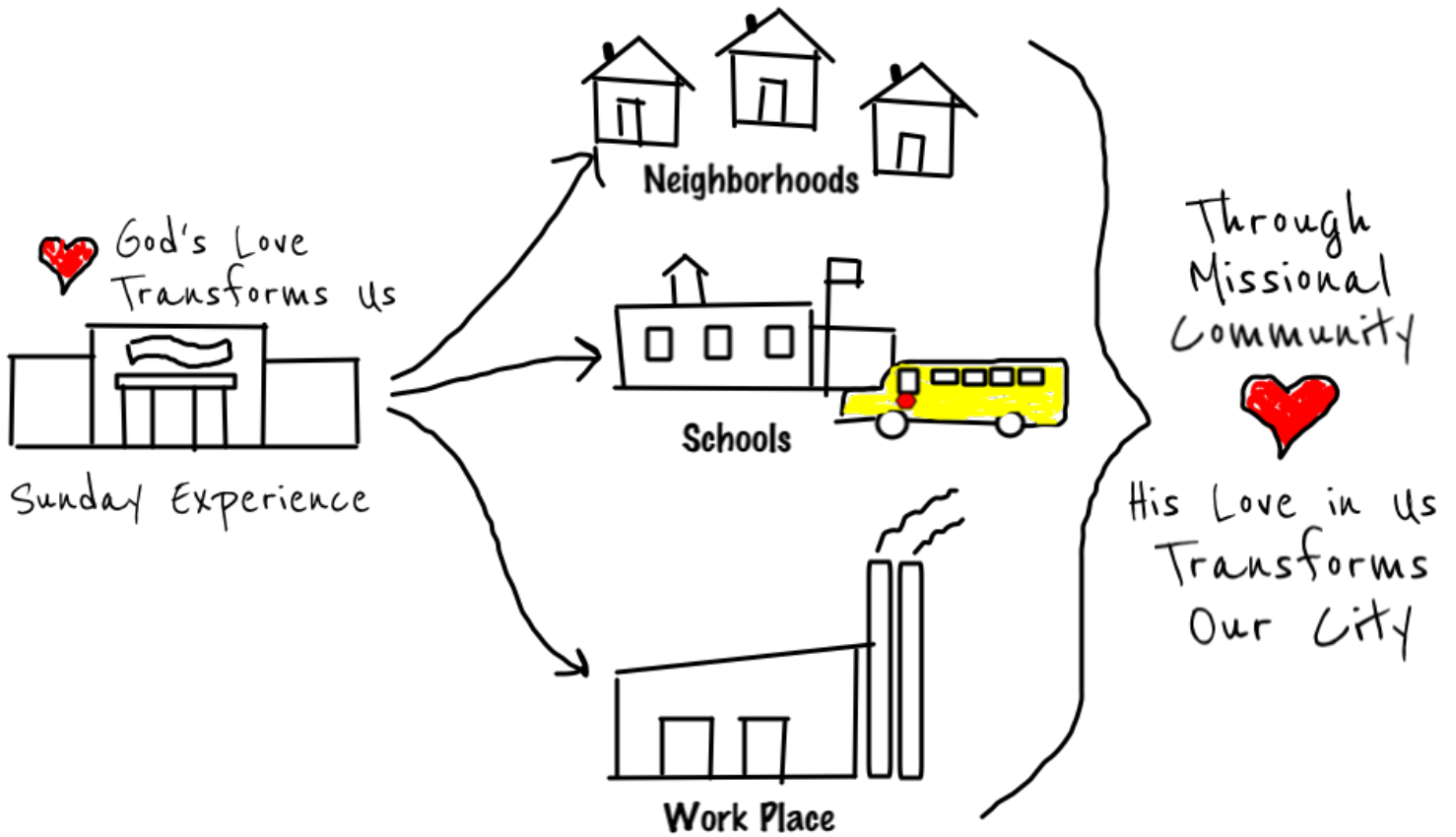
New assimilation structure slide



Gospel Filter Slide



Missional Community Slide



This is the catalyst for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. V. 47 - "...God added to their number daily those who were being saved."

47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

This kind of life transforms any culture. It is the heart of a disciple of Christ and it portrays the reality of Christ through a lifestyle of Worship. It is the embodiment of Romans 12:1-2

Romans 12:1-2 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice - the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Study Questions:

- 1) Re-read 1 Peter 2:4-6: What does this scripture mean to you specifically? What types of situations or circumstances is God using to shape you right now?
- 2) Evaluate your own life based on Acts 2:42 and the 4 areas of devotion:
 - a) Message and Bible study Application - What do you do in order to live out the Convictions of God that come through these?
 - b) Fellowship - Who are you in relationship with right now at BCC? Are these relationships that build your faith intentionally? Are you helping anyone else by building them up?
 - c) Communion - Do you have anyone at BCC that knows the real you? Is there places in your life that you have not confessed as sin to God? What do you think God would ask you to do about that?
 - d) Spend some time in prayer with those in your group, through either specific requests or as God would lead you to pray.
- 3) In your own words, describe what Acts 2:44-47 would look like today in our culture.