

The Rector's Reflections

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Over the past six months, we've been discussing the evangelization of Postmoderns through holistic cell groups. This month, I will introduce the Upward, Inward, Outward, and Forward values of God's Kingdom.

More specifically, the **Upward** (Mark 12:30) value of God's kingdom is the experience of Jesus Christ's presence in a cell group (Matthew 18:20) so that God's people build a living and loving relationship with Jesus (John 15:5; 17:23), manifested in obedience to the Word (James 1:21-25), life transformation (II Corinthians 5:17), Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), and Holy Spirit empowerment (Luke 11:13; Acts 1:8). Bible application (II Timothy 2:15), prayer (Acts 2:42), and worship praise (Ephesians 5:19-20; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 13:15; Revelation 5:8-9) are normative to cell life, which will result in the evangelization of Postmodern pre-Christians (Acts 2:42-47, 6:1-7).

The **Inward** (Mark 12:31) value of God's kingdom is the experience of Jesus Christ's presence in a cell group (Matthew 18:20) so that God's people are gifted by the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12:4-11) for body-life ministry (Romans 12:3-8; I Corinthians 12:12-31; I Peter 4:9-11) expressed in love (John 13:35; I Corinthians 13; Philippians

2:1-5). S.H.A.P.E. (Spiritual Gifts / Heart / Abilities / Personality / Experiences) discovery (Psalm 139:13-16) is normative to cell life and equips members (Ephesians 4:7-13) to effectively manifest the mutual ministry of "the 'One Anothers' of the New Testament" (Carl George, *Prepare Your Church for the Future*, 129-132), resulting in Christ's body (Ephesians 1:22-23) being built up in unity (Ephesians 4:16), and evangelism of Postmodern pre-Christians naturally taking place (Acts 2:42-47, 6:1-7).

The **Outward** (Matthew 28:19) value of God's kingdom is the experience of Jesus Christ's presence in a cell group (Matthew 18:20) so that God's people, who are blessed of God to bless others (Genesis 12:1-13; Acts 4:1-22; II Corinthians 2:14, 5:11-21), will be mobilized to share their new life in Christ with their Postmodern pre-Christian friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors (Matthew 9:10; John 1:40-41; Acts 10:9-48, 16:16-34). Non-threatening relational evangelism will take place by bringing and including pre-Christians in cell life (Mark 1:16-18), culturally relevant compassionate servant ministry (Matthew 5:16; Mark 10:45; Acts 3:1-10; I Corinthians 9:19-23; I Peter 2:12),

cells working together as mission teams (Luke 5:1-7; John 4:37-38), penetration of people groups (Luke 10:1-9; Acts 1:8, 10:34-48, 13:1-3, 26:17-18), prayer (II Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 6:12, 18; Colossians 4:2-4; I Timothy 2:1, 4), and seeker sensitive personal testimony (Colossians 4:5-6; Philemon 1:6; I Peter 3:15), which will result in the evangelization (Romans 10:17; I Peter 2:12) of pre-Christian Postmoderns.

The **Forward** (Matthew 28:20) value of God's kingdom is the experience of Jesus Christ's presence in a cell group (Matthew 18:20) so that God's people are continually transformed (Romans 8:29; II Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 1:6, 3:12-14) and developed for leadership of holistic cells (Exodus 18:13-27; Acts 2:42-47; Romans

16:3-5). Grassroots leadership formation and development through mentoring (Exodus 17:14; Deuteronomy 31:1-8; I Kings 19:19-21; Mark 3:13-14; Acts 9:26-28; I Corinthians 1:11; I Thessalonians 2:8; II Timothy 2:1-2) and a systematic process of training (Luke 9:1-10, 10:1-24) and equipping (Ephesians 4:11-16) will assure an ever-expanding multiplication (Genesis 1:28, 9:7; Mark 4:30-34; Luke 13:20-21) of cell groups reaching Postmodern pre-Christians with the Gospel (Acts 9:31, 12:14) "house to house" (Acts 20:20). Please join me next month as I begin a more in-depth discussion of the Upward value of God's kingdom.

Faithfully in Jesus Christ,

Greg J



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Passion/Palm Sunday - March 28th

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Maundy Thursday - April 1st

7:00 PM = Holy Eucharist

Good Friday - April 2nd

12:00 PM (Noon) = Liturgy of Good Friday