

2022 SLE Church Camp – A Healthy Church

Objectives

- Understanding a 'healthy church' with ecosystem thinking
- Assess the healthiness of SLE Church
- Striving for a healthier SLE Church

What is a healthy church?

BRAINSTORM

WORD CLOUD: what word, phrases or descriptions come to mind when you think of HEALTHY church?

<http://sle.church/camp2022>



BIBLE:

1. The body of Christ – where God's/Christ's Spirit dwells (IDENTITY/ESSENCE)

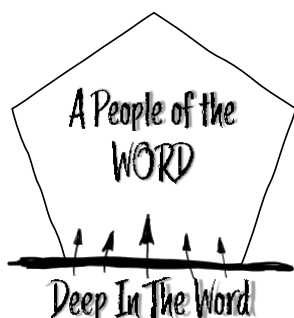


1 Corinthians 3:16-17 ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 ¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:27 ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

2. A People of the Word (Deep in the Word)



Spiritual life comes through the word

Isaiah 55:10-11 ¹⁰ "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall **my word be that goes out from my mouth**; it shall not return to me empty, but **it shall accomplish that which I purpose**, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Romans 10:17 ¹⁷ So **faith** comes from hearing, and hearing **through the word of Christ**.

1 Peter 1:23 ²³ since you have been **born again**, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, **through the living and abiding word of God**

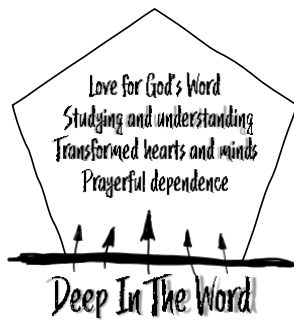
Salvation and all necessary knowledge come from the word

2 Timothy 3:14-17 ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with **the sacred writings**, which are **able to make you wise for salvation** through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All **Scripture** is breathed out by God and **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness**, ¹⁷ **that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work**.

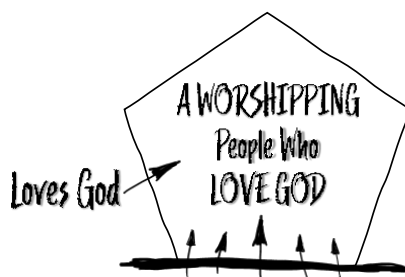
Church life and growth comes through the word

Ephesians 4:11-16 ¹¹ And he gave **the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers**, ¹² to equip the saints **for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ**, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, **speaking the truth in love**, we are to **grow up in every way into him** who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

What a healthy 'deep in the word' church looks like:



3. A Worshipping People who Love the LORD (Loves God)



Psalm 86:11-12 ¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name. ¹² I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 ⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Deuteronomy 10:12-13 ¹² "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³ and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?

Matthew 22:37-40 ³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

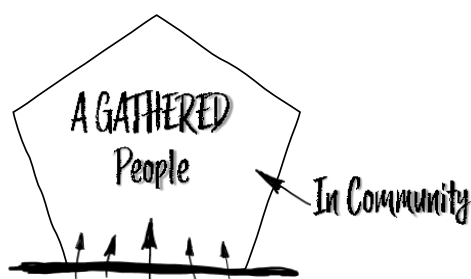
Romans 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

SING: How Great Thou Art

What a healthy 'loves God' church looks like:



4. A Gathered People (In Community)



A healthy church meets together.

Hebrews 10:23-25 ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

A healthy church really treasures and grows their unity

Ephesians 4:1-6 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call-- ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

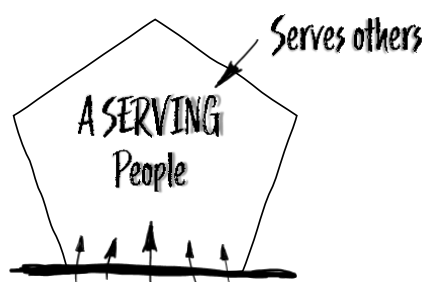
A healthy church community is warm and welcoming to all

James 2:1-7 My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ² For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³ and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," ⁴ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

What a healthy 'in community' church looks like:



5. A Serving People (Serve Others)



Ephesians 4:11-16 ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² **to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,** ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

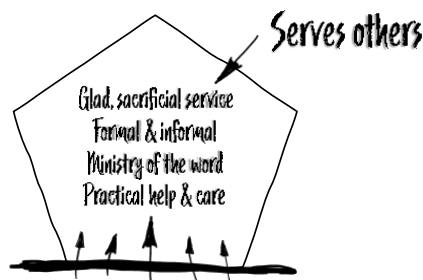
Galatians 5:25 - 6:10 ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

^{6:1} Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵ For each will have to bear his own load. ⁶ ¶ One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁷ ¶ Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ **So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.**

Romans 12:1-13 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ ¶ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one

body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. **6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them:** if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. ⁹ ¶ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

What a healthy ‘serves others’ church looks like:



6. **A Light to the World (On Mission)**



Isaiah 42:6-7 ⁶ "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Matthew 5:14 ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

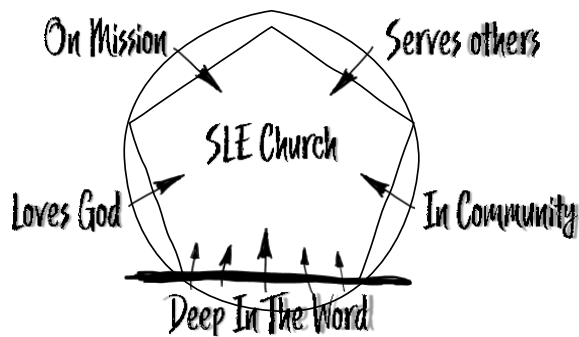
1 Peter 2:9 ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

What a healthy ‘on mission’ church looks like:



Ecosystem

You can identify these different outcomes, but you can't neatly separate them. They're all connected.



How are the parts of our ecosystem going?

How is SLE Church's ecosystem going? Let's get your views!

<http://sle.church/camp2022>

Results:

Thought experiment: using the idea of an ecosystem...

Explain what the possible reasons might be for why one part of the ecosystem might be an area of concern or is unhealthy?

- ❖ **Case study 1: There is a lack of people willing to serve in the church – there're holes in the Sunday services roster, lack of volunteers when needed (kiddie care, church working bees, etc.)**
- ❖ **Case study 2: There is very low mission 'heat' – personal evangelism is lacking, people don't bring non-Christian friends to church, hardly anyone attends Mission Interest Group**

- ❖ ***Case study 3: It doesn't feel like people in the church have a deep love and awe of God; people are spiritually dry, barely sing, struggle to pray, and finding it hard to want to live for God.***

7. How's SLE Church doing?

Healthy:

Concern: