

March 2024
DUPC Sunday Forum Series
Sundays, 9:45AM—Shaw Room

MARCH
3

Beyond Resistance
The Institutional Church
Meets the Postmodern World

MARCH
10

by **John Dorhauer**

Come join in the continuing discussions of this thought-provoking book led by several congregation members.

MARCH
17

March 3rd will be a time for attendees to share thoughts and ideas, and discuss the recently posed questions.

March 10 & 17 - led by Leah Kone and/or Nancy Simpson

MARCH
24

The Science of Gratitude

Presenter: David A. Orange

Research shows gratitude does more than just help us to feel good—being grateful can also support greater mental and physical health for ourselves and our communities.
Come learn more about the many benefits of gratitude.

SUNDAY FORUM

MARCH 17, 2024



DISCUSSION POINTS

A STORY

AGREEMENTS

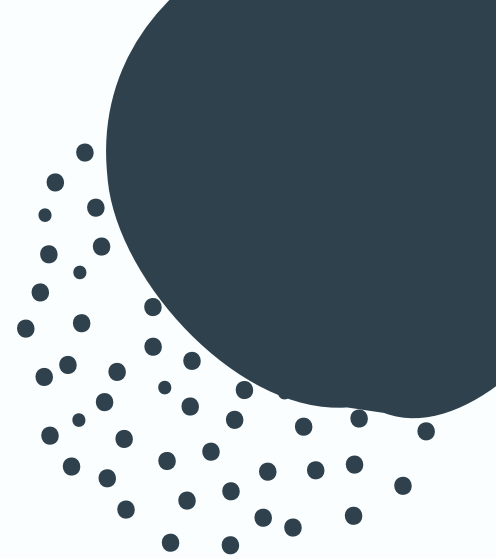
5 PILLARS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

JOHN 15

WHAT CAN WE DO NOW

Five Pillars

- **FELLOWSHIP**
- **Discipleship (Education)**
- **Worship**
- **Ministry (Service, Mission Giving, Justice)**
- **Evangelism (Sharing the Word, and spreading the word)**



**CHURCHES
GROW WARMER
THROUGH
FELLOWSHIP**

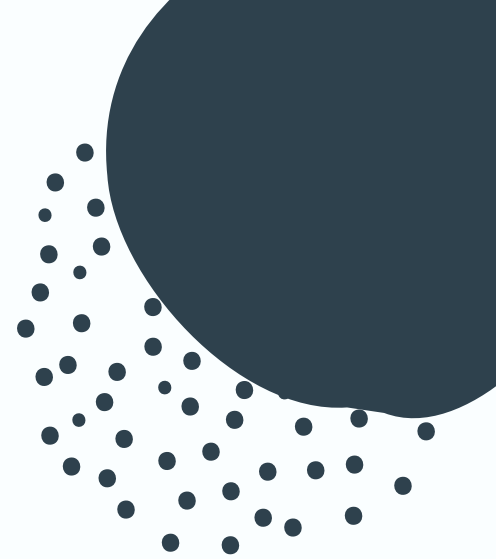
**CHURCHES
GROW BROADER
THROUGH
MINISTRY**

**CHURCHES
GROW DEEPER
THROUGH
DISCIPLESHIP**

**CHURCHES
GROW
STRONGER
THROUGH
WORSHIP**

**CHURCHES
GROW LARGER
THROUGH
EVANGELISM**

Five Pillars



- **THE SOUL WINNING CHURCH (EVANGELISM)**
- **The Experiencing God Church (Worship)**
- **The Family Reunion Church (Fellowship)**
- **The Classroom Church (Discipleship)**
- **The Social Conscience Church (Ministry)**

“This is the church that is out to change society. It is full of activists who are “doers of the Word.” It comes in both a liberal and conservative version. The liberal version tends to focus on the injustice in our society. The conservative version tends to focus on the moral decline in our society. Both feel the church should be a major player in the political process. There is always some current crusade or cause that the church is involved in. The pastor sees his role as prophet and reformer. Important terms in this church are needs, serve, share, minister, take a stand, and do something.”

AND YET....

**ONLY 2% OF OUR BUDGET IS
ALLOCATED TO BENEVOLENCES**

JOHN 15:1-17

**You didn't choose me,
remember; I chose you, and
put you in the world to bear
fruit, fruit that won't spoil. As
fruit bearers, whatever you
ask the Father in relation to
me, he gives you.**

**WHAT CAN WE DO
NOW?**

Sunday Forum: March 17, 2024
Where We've Been → Where We Will Go Next

Story: *Accepting that I may be the person to close Camp Whitman.*

Agreements:

- Our membership and weekly attendance has decreased steadily to a breaking point.
- Our pledges are not covering even half of our congregational expenses, and our total income is only covering 40% of our total expenses.
- Our endowment is being pulled from at higher levels each year.
- We continue to grieve what has been lost.
- We have renewed energy and enthusiasm for building a new future.

5 Pillars of a Congregation:

Disclaimer: The principles in this next section are written by a Southern Baptist pastor's blog. However, note that his church was expelled from the denomination for appointing a female pastor.

- Fellowship
 - Discipleship (Education)
 - Worship
 - Ministry (Service, Mission Giving, Justice)
 - Evangelism (Sharing the Word, and spreading the word)
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- Churches grow warmer through fellowship.
 - Churches grow deeper through discipleship.
 - Churches grow stronger through worship.
 - Churches grow broader through ministry.
 - Churches grow larger through evangelism.

Ideally each of these pillars will be balanced, however we are naturally drawn to one or two pillars, and imbalance ultimately ensues. Often the gifts of a particular pastor pull a congregation closer to one pillar over the others.

The author illustrates five examples of church imbalance in one particular direction.

The Soul Winning Church (Evangelism)
The Experiencing God Church (Worship)
The Family Reunion Church (Fellowship)
The Classroom Church (Discipleship)
The Social Conscience Church (Ministry)

“This is the church that is out to change society. It is full of activists who are “doers of the Word.” It comes in both a liberal and conservative version. The liberal version tends to focus on the injustice in our society. The conservative version tends to focus on the moral decline in our society. Both feel the church should be a major player in the political process. There is always some current crusade or cause that the church is involved in. The pastor sees his role as prophet and reformer. Important terms in this church are needs, serve, share, minister, take a stand, and do something.”

John 15: 1-17 (The Message)

The Vine and the Branches

15 1-3 “I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn’t bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.

4 “Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can’t bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can’t bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

5-8 “I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you’re joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can’t produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.

9-10 “I’ve loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. If you keep my commands, you’ll remain intimately at home in my love. That’s what I’ve done—kept my Father’s commands and made myself at home in his love.

11-15 “I’ve told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I’m no longer calling you servants because servants don’t understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I’ve named you friends because I’ve let you in on everything I’ve heard from the Father.

16 “You didn’t choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won’t spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you.

17 “But remember the root command: Love one another.

What can we do THIS year?

- Add to worksheets for each pillar.

What are the next steps that we can take SOON?

- Create a system to record our budget into “classes” for true congregation expenses vs operating expenses.

DUPC Sunday Forum Series: John Dorhauer's

Beyond Resistance: The Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World

3-17-2024: Lea Kone

Attendees: Carol Samuel, Helen Ganotis, Marily Terpening, Joan and Bill Mackey, Becky Parks, Raina Bouphavong, Mary Rees, John DeHority, Carolyn DeHority, Elaine Johnson, Bob Richane, Bob Carlisle, David Lee, and Nancy Simpson

Zoom: Ed Saphar, Gail Mott, and Nancy Brown

Discussion:

- There's no Community and Congregational Engagement Committee anymore—no one to plan gatherings.
- Benevolence fund? Does that still exist? Lowering or dismissing rent for some tenants is a benevolence.
- Donations: could ask for donations at dinner gatherings. Those donations could be targeted to a specific activity or mission objective.
- Could offer free community meals. Would need volunteers. Be aware of volunteer fatigue.
 - Could be simple sandwich meals prepped for take-away food for the weekends.
- Pastoral care: Where does the budget address the funds that cover/account for pastoral care? Falls under Ministry (like the Deacons work).
- Kids: They want to be involved with church—at church or at home/in community.
 - Could fund raise to cover events.
- Building: It can be the mission or part of the mission.
 - Could Incorporate: Non-profit organization purchase the whole building as a new owner. DUPC could contract for usage of the sanctuary for decades of use.
- Session: Very little of agenda and time are spent on congregational issues. Mostly all about the building,
- Financial Budget snapshot: