



A Biblical Vision For A Healthy Local Church

A Conversation
7.19.2009 (pt.1) & 7.26.2009 (pt.2)

Where are we going today?

1. A brief recap of each of the 5 distinctives
2. Your questions / comments
3. Our prayer together

About...

HAVERHILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

We exist to see, savor, and show forth the glory of God in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit as a vibrant, holistic, and biblical 21st century church. Our mission is to develop genuine disciples of Jesus Christ who are continually transformed by His redemptive work and are being equipped to understand, enjoy and express His Grace to our world.

Central to our identity are the following:

- The God-centeredness of God
- The centrality and supremacy of Jesus Christ in all things
- A strong teaching / thinking / questioning ministry model
- Genuine Christian community and relational vitality
- Creative cultural and civic involvement

The past 9 months @ HCC: a period of introduction

What normally occurs after 9 months, Mark Gilford? Birth

We have been together, as strangers become friends in the Kingdom of God

Over the past 6 months we have been introduced to this Biblical Vision of a Healthy Local Church, as we have look at many many bible passages under these 5 topics.

Last week we looked @ 4 distinctives from Acts 2.42

(Marks ministries lists 9 marks of a healthy church)

Lets recap and open the floor for conversation

1. The God-centeredness of God

What am I saying when I say the God-centeredness of God?

God is who He is, the eternally, infinite glorious One, Father, Son & Holy Spirit...and does what He does to glorify Himself...and make Himself look more in our eyes as He really is!

The Bible is 1st and foremost a book about Him...not man, you or me.

He is at the center of existence and exists to glorify Himself through the death & resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ

(Genesis 1:1 NIV) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Isaiah 43:3-7 NIV For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. (4) Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life. (5) Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. (6) I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth— (7) everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Romans 11:33-36 NIV Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! (34) "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" (35) "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" (36) For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Questions / Comments

2. The centrality and supremacy of Jesus Christ in all things

God-specific...not God in general.

Jesus Christ, the God-man is the central message and focus of our lives...from beginning, during and in all of life...and to the end of time and into eternity!

He is the most supreme Lord & Master

Colossians 1:15-20 NIV He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. (16) For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. (17) He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (18) And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. (19) For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, (20) and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

He is the gospel. His death & resurrection for sinners is central in our lives

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 NIV (1) Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. (2) By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. (3) For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, (4) that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Hear Tullian Tchividjian

The Gospel For Everyday Life

July 18th, 2009 by Tullian Tchividjian

As I've said before, I once assumed (along with the vast majority of professing Christians) that the gospel was simply what non-Christians must believe in order to be saved, while afterward we advance to deeper theological waters. But I've come to realize that "the gospel isn't the first step in a stairway of truths, but more like the hub in a wheel of truth." As Tim Keller explains it, the gospel isn't simply the ABCs of Christianity, but the A-through-Z. The gospel doesn't just ignite the Christian life; it's the fuel that keeps Christians going every day. Once God rescues sinners, his plan isn't to steer them beyond the gospel, but to move them more deeply into it. After all, the only antidote to sin is the gospel—and since Christians remain sinners even after they're converted, the gospel must be the medicine a Christian takes every day. Since we never leave off sinning, we can never leave the gospel.

Questions / Comments

3. A strong teaching / thinking / questioning, scripture-searching ministry model

We communicate through words. Bible words. Human words.

We read the texts of scripture, we discuss them. We listen to one another, ask questions, even disagree...so we go together to God in prayer for wisdom and discernment of truth.

Matthew 28:18-20 NIV Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (19) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Acts 5:42 NIV Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

2 Timothy 4:1-5 NIV In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: (2) Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. (3) For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. (4) They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. (5) But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

SIDEBAR:

1. Some in the Body of Christ communicate through spoken word
2. Some in the Body of Christ communicate through action/modeling – which may produce questions by unbelievers and then opportunity to answer those questions.

Col 4.2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. **3** At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— **4** that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. **6** Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Questions / comments

Prayer for HCC: Mark Gilford

4. Genuine Christian Community and Relational Vitality

We found this beginning in the relational life of the Triune God

Jesus called His disciples “friends”

John 15:15 NIV I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Friendship among the Apostles: 3 John “Dear Friend” 4X

Love one another

John 13:34 NIV "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

Humble, other-centered service and laying down you life for others

Questions / Comments

Prayer for HCC: Mike Sperring

5. Genuine Christian community and relational vitality

Very in the world...Very not of it.

Matthew 9:9-13 NIV As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. (10) While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. (11) When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" (12) On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. (13) But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

John 17:14-16 NIV I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. (15) My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. (16) They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.

1 Corinthians 5:9-10 NIV (9) I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— (10) not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world.

Questions / Comments

Prayer for HCC: Dave Herring



The Lord is with us and is building His body here @ HCC

Let's see how we can encourage one another in these ways, as we, **who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.** 2 Corinthians 3:18 NIV

Mark Dever has said:

"A healthy church is a congregation that increasingly reflects God's character as His character has been revealed in His word."