

Christ the Center (4 of 4)

Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, June 26th, 2022



Series Focus: What does it look like to be a Christ-centered church that is faithful to the gospel? How can we be a church that doesn't obsess over boundaries or one that ends up erasing all lines that set us apart as faithful disciples? In this 4-part sermon series, we discover that Christ is the center of our community when we are pursuing him together, affirming historic Christian beliefs, and living out our values as Christ-followers, while simultaneously extending grace to those who are at different places on their journey.

Sermon Title: The Deep Well of a Centered Church

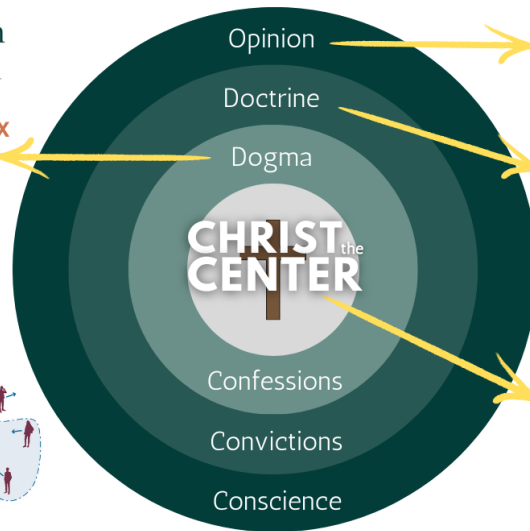
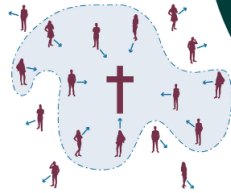
Scripture Reading: John 1:14-17; 4:10-14; 8:1-11; Romans 6:15-18; Galatians 6:1-2

Sermon Focus: A church that operates according to the grace and truth of Jesus is neither bounded nor fuzzy in its thinking and practice. Instead, a real Christ-centered congregation understands that God accepts us as we are but loves us too much to leave us that way. In *The Deep Well of a Centered Church*, Pastor David shares what it looks like to transcend the bounded-fuzzy continuum so we might discover the Spirit's power to transform our lives and shape the church's gospel witness to the world.



Historic-Orthodox Christian Beliefs:

- early creeds (Apostles' & Nicene)
- full humanity & divinity of Jesus
- God as Trinity



Personal Opinions
liberty regarding non-essential matters

Beliefs, Traditions & Faith Practices

- interpretations of dogma & Bible
- BIC values & distinctives

Jesus Christ

as revealed in the New Testament
(John 1:1-18; 3:16-17; 14:6-9; Col 1:15; Heb. 1:3; 1 John 4:7-21)

1. Read John 1:14,17. Why do you think we have such a hard time holding "grace and truth" together as God's people? Share some examples of how and when you've seen Christians and churches do this well?
2. Pastor David shared how ranchers in the Australian Outback dig wells instead of building fences. The cattle may roam, but they will stay close to the well to live. Was this a helpful metaphor for you thinking about Christ being the well (center) of our community life? How might that change the way we see discipleship, accountability, and the journey of holiness in the church today?
3. *Reflect on the graphic at the top of the page.* Baker writes: "A centered church frees doctrine to be much more than right belief. Doctrine becomes life-giving well water by helping people in the church align with and journey toward the center." Pastor David said that we can think of the above image to explain what we mean by aiming our lives at Christ. In this view, our beliefs, doctrines, and traditions then become guideposts that keep us on the way of Jesus. Do you find this helpful? What might this look like lived out in our congregation?
4. Pastor David shared several stories of a centered approach to accountability, where we prioritize relationships and doesn't focus on the action/misbehavior. It involves asking questions ("Have you prayed about this? So, how do you understand what the Bible says about this matter?") and meeting them where they are in their journey. In this we can see why authentic relationships are critical if we're going to live into the Centered Church model. How is God speaking to you about being more centered as a disciple and as a member of Grantham Church? Are there any adjustments you need to make in your life?