

We Are Disciples



FALL 2023 SERMON SERIES
granthamchurch.org/sermons



**Grantham
Church**
BRETHREN IN CHRIST

DISCIPLES ARE...

Disciples are people in community who – empowered by the Holy Spirit – are growing to love, follow, and lead others to the God who looks like Jesus.



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THE INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP (1 OF 6)



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Matthew

4:18-22

9:9-13

10:1-4, 32-39

16:24-27

28:18-20

Paul, Romans 8:29-30 MSG – Our Identity in Christ

²⁹⁻³⁰ God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. **We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him.** After God made that decision of what his children should be like, he followed it up by calling people by name. After he called them by name, he set them on a solid basis with himself. And then, after getting them established, he stayed with them to the end, gloriously completing what he had begun.

“You shall have no other gods before me.” - **Exodus 20:3**

What is idolatry?

“An idol is whatever you look at and say, in your heart of hearts, “If I have that, then I’ll feel my life has meaning, then I’ll know I have value, then I’ll feel significant and secure.”

- **Tim Keller, Counterfeit Gods**

We can have “idols of the heart” (Ezekiel 14:1-5)

The Apostle Paul said there are cultural idols (Colossians 3:5-6)

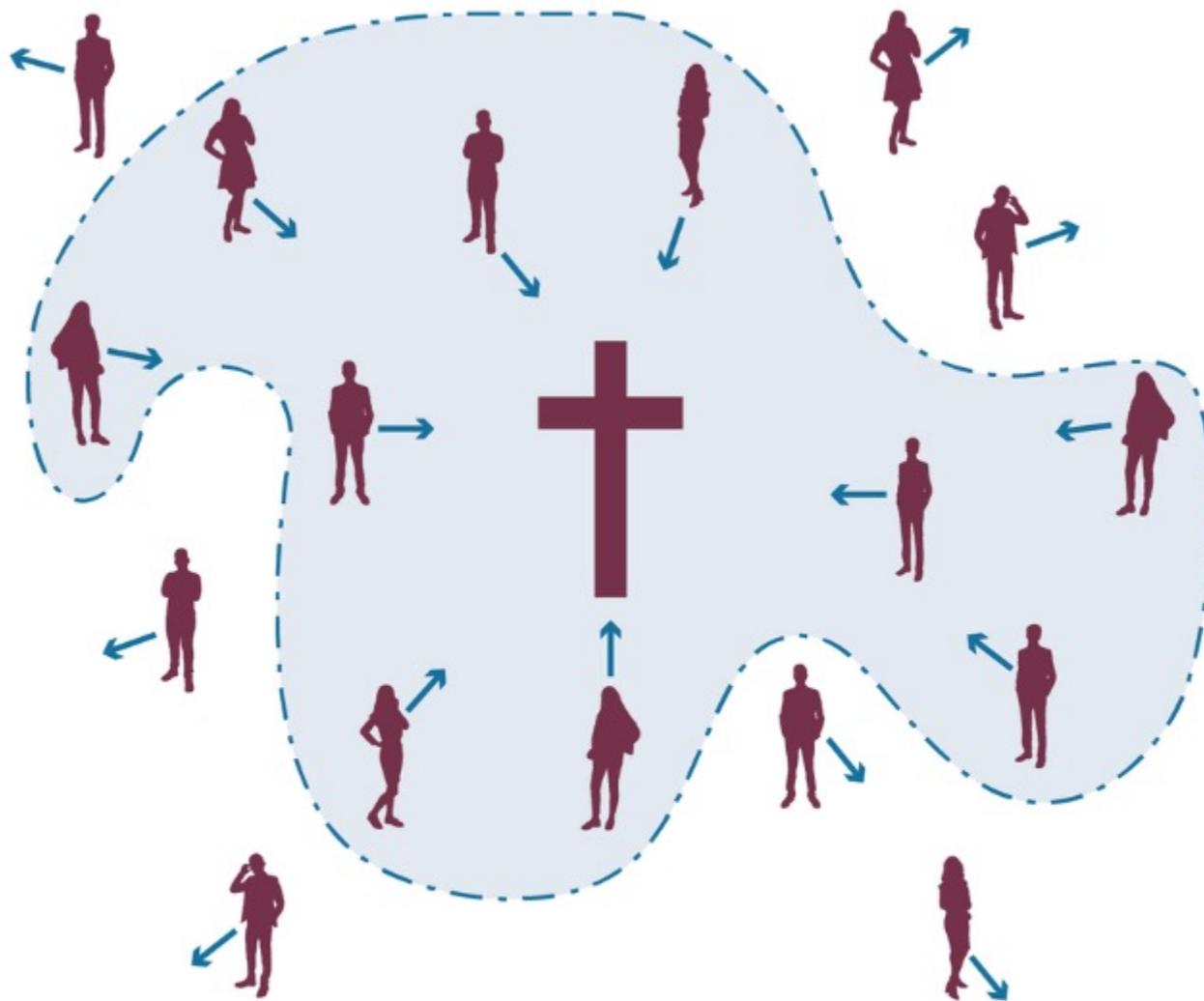
Idols of American Culture

- Money/Greed
- Success & Fame
- Sports
- Individualism
- Sex/Sexuality
- Entertainment
- Food & Drugs
- Power/Domination
- Technology
- Consumerism
- War & Violence
- Nationalism
- Political Ideologies
- Social Activism

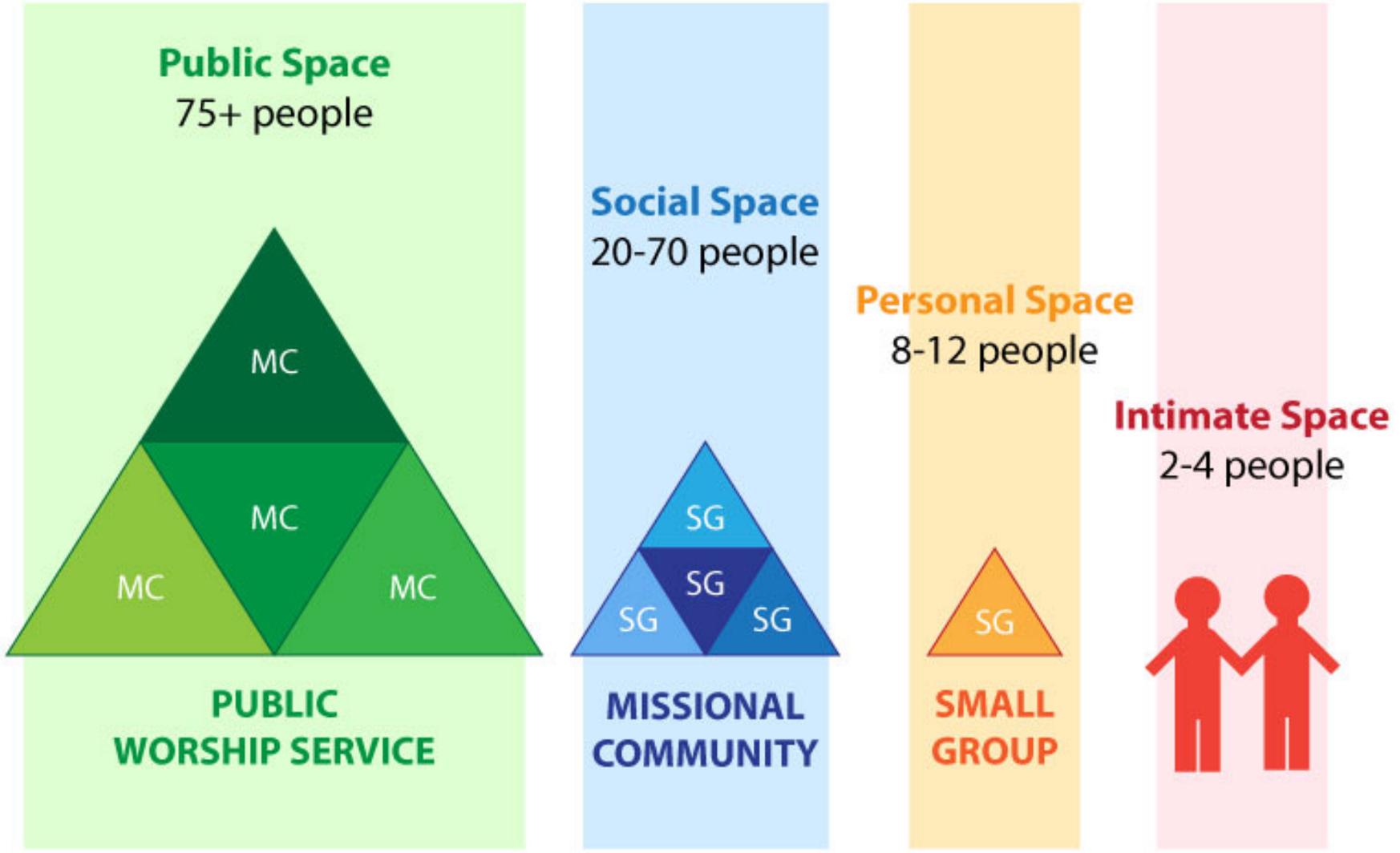
Ephesians 4:17-24 CEV – Live Into Your True Identity!

¹⁷ As a follower of the Lord, I order you to stop living like stupid, godless people. ¹⁸ Their minds are in the dark, and they are stubborn and ignorant and have missed out on the life that comes from God. They no longer have any feelings about what is right, ¹⁹ and they are so greedy they do all kinds of indecent things.

²⁰⁻²¹ But this isn't what you were taught about Jesus Christ. He is the truth, and you heard about him and learned about him. ²² You were told that your foolish desires will destroy you and that you must give up your old way of life with all its bad habits. ²³ Let the Spirit change your way of thinking ²⁴ and make you into **a new person**. You were created to be like God, and so you must please him and be truly holy.



Self-Inclusion in the Centered Church



**Triangle of
Spiritual Balance
and Health**

GOD

UP

Loving God

through prayer,
fasting, devotions,
Bible study, etc.

CHURCH

IN

Loving each other

through worship, service,
accountability, Bible study, etc.

OUT

WORLD

Loving unbelievers

by sharing the gospel, being
peacemakers, serving the
poor and needy, etc.

The purpose of the *gathered* church is for worship, community, and discipleship.
We gather together so that we might be equipped, inspired, and empowered to be the *missional* (sent) church in the world.



GATHER



GROW



GIVE



GO



Matthew 28:18-20 NLT

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

We Are Disciples

The Invitation to Discipleship



Questions for reflection and response:

We Are Disciples

The Invitation to Discipleship



Questions for reflection and response:

1. Do you remember when Jesus first called you to follow him?
Relive and reflect on that memory for a moment.

We Are Disciples

The Invitation to Discipleship



Questions for reflection and response:

1. Do you remember when Jesus first called you to follow him?
Relive and reflect on that memory for a moment.
2. Has Christ remained the *center* of your life? Are you getting your identity, meaning, and purpose from Jesus alone?

We Are Disciples

The Invitation to Discipleship



Questions for reflection and response:

1. Do you remember when Jesus first called you to follow him?
Relive and reflect on that memory for a moment.
2. Has Christ remained the *center* of your life? Are you getting your identity, meaning, and purpose from Jesus alone?
3. How are you intentionally pursuing Christ with the church?
How is the Spirit inviting you to respond to this message?

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