

Christ the Center (3 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 19th, 2022

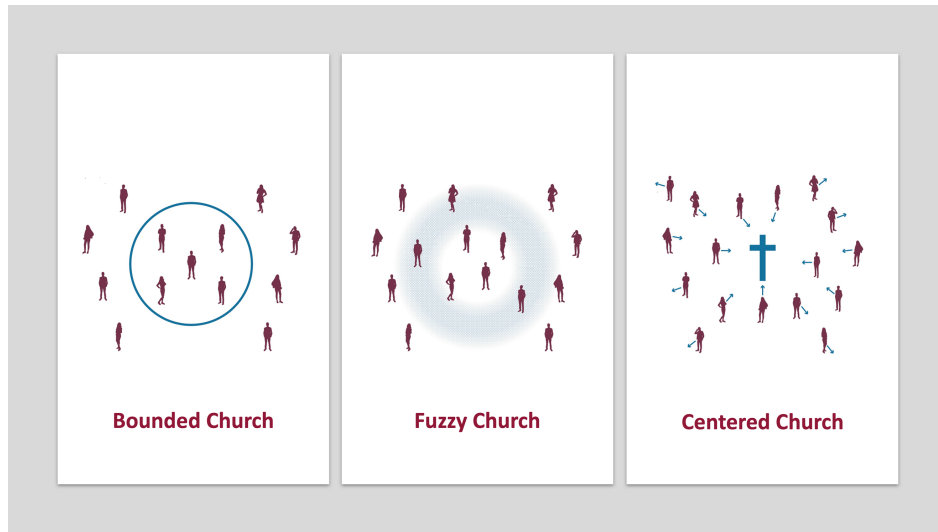


Series Focus: What does it look like to be a Christ-centered church that is faithful to the gospel? How can we be a church that doesn't obsess over boundaries or one that ends up erasing all lines that set us apart as faithful disciples? In this 4-part sermon series, we discover that Christ is the center 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 Meager Fruit of a Fuzzy Church

Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:8; 1 Corinthians 6:12-13; Galatians 5:13-25; 6:1-10

Sermon Focus: Paul preached freedom to the bounded Galatians and boundaries to the fuzzy Corinthians. That's because Jesus came to us full of grace *and* truth, and he says that we are to bear fruit in keeping with repentance. But unfortunately, some well-intentioned disciples are moving from one extreme to the other. In *The Meager Fruit of a Fuzzy Church*, Pastor David shares how the gospel challenges the fuzzy practice of community that is fueled by secular ideas of tolerance, individualism, and relativism.



1. In this message on the Fuzzy Church, Pastor David began by sharing a story from Baker's book about Dustin Maddox's journey from Bounded to Fuzzy, to seeking out a third way option for being community. How did Dustin's story speak to you, encourage you, and/or challenge you?
2. Pastor David listed the following as "meager" fruit that the Bounded Church produces. How have you seen these in your own experience? Take some time to discuss each of these as a group.
 - Promotes a portrait of God as a permissive parent, a divine butler, and a cosmic therapist who exists for your happiness
 - Mimics the *zeitgeist* (spirit of the age) by accepting secular ideas of tolerance, individualism, inclusion, relativism, etc.
 - Creates a church culture of "whateverism" that prefers *niceness* to cultural discernment, truth-telling, and mutual accountability
 - Breeds licentiousness, apathy, complacency, blandness, etc.
 - God's "grace" is cheapened by a disregard for discipleship
 - Life changes are minimal because Jesus is not the true center
3. Pastor David said, "The Fuzzy Church will eventually die as it fails to place Christ at the center, fails to use cultural discernment in light of Scripture, and fails to grow as a community shaped by the gospel. In other words, the end of the road for the Fuzzy Church is death by assimilation to secular society and culture. It's lack of rootedness in the gospel gives it no ability to resist that assimilation and offer anything of eternal value to the world." How have you seen this happening to more "progressive" mainline churches? Have you seen this in other places?
4. How did the Spirit speak to you through this message and the Scripture reading? How were you encouraged? How were you challenged?