

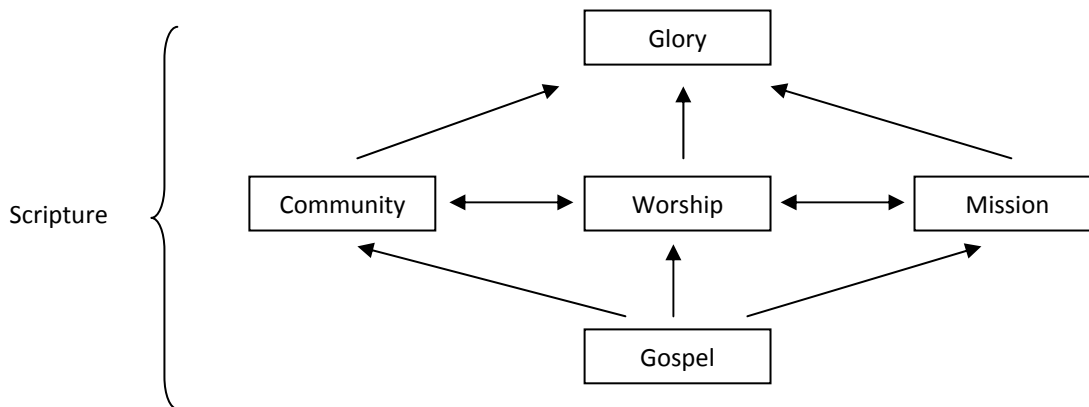
State of the Communion: Worship, Community, Mission

Acts 2:41-47

Outline/Summary

Three Questions Applied to the text...

1. *How?* --Witness (38-40); Conversion (41); Baptism (41); Church membership (41)
2. *What?* -- Teaching; Fellowship; Lord's Supper; Prayer
3. *Where?* (focus?)
 - Upward (Worship) --awe/fear and praise
 - Inward (Community) -- Love and safety (44-45); Meeting needs; Constancy (46 - "day by day" and "from house to house"); Gladness and sincerity (46)
 - Outward (Mission) "having favor with all the people ... and God was adding to their number" (47)



Upward, Inward, and Outward at Desert Springs Church

1. Worship -- Corporate; Family; Private
 - Think every day/everything as worship

“... everyone is called to all of these kinds/contexts of worship”
2. Community -- Corporate worship; Home Groups; Other connecting ministries (huddles...)

“Think both EVENT and IDENTITY”

 - Community is Christian **identity**, not just a **commandment** or a **meeting**. (I'm still a dad even when I'm not around my kids...)
 - **much more than programs.**
 - It's wrong-headed to see the Christian life lived out alone or with family, and the church once/twice per week strengthens me to do that. Instead we should have the perspective that **our Christian life is lived out in community**
3. Mission-- Global; Local; Personal. Think mission through:
 - **corporate plans and opportunities** (especially with global)
 - AND **everyday life/sphere-of-influence opportunities**

Upward, Inward, and Outward Review and Forecast

1. Worship

- Grown in centrality of the Word, hunger for the Word
- More expressive worship in singing
- Lord's Supper Services have grown significantly

2. Community -- Home Groups have grown significantly (more than doubled in 2009)

- Increasingly central to what we do

3. Mission

a. Global -- Growing in fruit and opportunities for service

- Guatemala (Achi New Testament, Medical, pastoral training, ...)
- SNAP (Strategic North Africa Partnership) -- equipping for church plant
- Questions/Desire to serve? Contact elder Tim Ray (tim@lighthousemhp.com) or missions director Clint Moore (clint@desertspringschurch.org)

b. Local -- Need to establish a culture of be missionally minded (IDENTITY...)

- Programmatic: Christianity Explored, community outreach events
- Personal: Ambassador training to equip you (coming soon: Christianity Explained)
- Home Group integration of outreach/service function
- Other ideas? Contact elder candidate Tim Ragsdale (tim@objectivegospel.org) or missions director Clint Moore (clint@desertspringschurch.org)

c. Church Planting -- Acts 29 Church Planting Network affiliation

- Equipping Elder Candidate Carlos Griego for a local church plant

Wrap up--"The short of it..."

- **God has been good** to us -- far better than we deserve.
- We want to be **more intentional** about **vision, communication** – who we are, what we do, and why.
- We want to be **more radical** in our plans and pursuits.
- **God must do this.** Some of this needs to be carefully thought out, planned, led, BUT much of this is beyond what man can do. If any this will be more than just mere plans and programs, God will have to bless and give and grow and strengthen.
- So **Pray.**

Next Week's Text:

Luke 17:1-21

Study Helps and Application

If you have good questions come up before Wednesday night, especially about the corporate vision, consider submitting the question for the upcoming elder Q&A at the Wed. Feb 24 Lord's Supper service. (submit to: info@desertspringschurch.org)

Discussion 1: Worship. Our pop-evangelical church culture can tend to equate "worship" with "music." Let's take a broader and more biblical view of worship and discuss it on the different levels where we live it out.

- *Corporately: (Desert Springs Church)*
 - *Summarize to one another Ryan's teaching on this--are you able to put it into your own words? Use each other as sounding boards...*
 - *What do you see as different from "business as usual"? [What fundamental changes in the way we "do church"?)*
- *Small Group*
 - *How does your small group worship fit into the larger vision?*
 - *What are some potential areas for growth?*
- *Family/Personally--the same questions above. It is important to share this with one another too. (see community)*

Discussion 2: Community. Our individualistic and self-reliant militates against the kind of self-sacrificial love we are called to as believers in what we call the "one another" texts. *Answer the same questions above for community.*

Discussion 3: Mission. Is our mission to "grow larger"? ("stay afloat" in tough financial times?) Or maybe help people to be more moral or feel better about themselves? How closely does our mission line up with the Great **Commission**? *Answer the same questions above for mission.*

- *Evangelical church attendance is often driven by "what's new" or "who's mad at whom," etc. Define/discuss biblical growth [sanctification] and how it relates to DSCs reduction in general attendance vs. the increase in Lord's Supper attendance. [Lord's Supper attendance more generally reflects the core; 2 Tim 4:1-3]*

Memory Verse

^{ESV} **Hebrews 10:24** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

Resources for Further Study

- *Desert Springs Church website* <http://www.desertspringschurch.org>
- *Acts 29 Church Planting Network* <http://www.acts29network.org>
- *Christianity Explored* <http://www.christianityexplored.org>