

Discovery 101: Member Orientation

Avalon Baptist Church

Session 1: Why are we Church?

Point 1: The Church is a _____, designed to fulfill his plan for worldwide redemption

We are part of the Body and support the whole by contributing to the holiness, protection, and sharing of the vision given by God.

12The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. 13Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. 14Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. 15If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. 16And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? 17If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything? 18But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. 19How strange a body would be if it had only one part! 20Yes, there are many parts, but only one body.

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-20

To be part of the Body means to focus on our contribution to the whole, not on what others give or how they can serve us. **Being the Church is about knowing how we can serve the _____ of _____ uniquely in our time and place.**

Point 2: The Church is a _____, supported by a joint connection with God and Man (Vertical and Horizontal)

The 3 areas of ministry that build our Vertical Relationship (connection to God) are:

Worship, Prayer, and Scripture

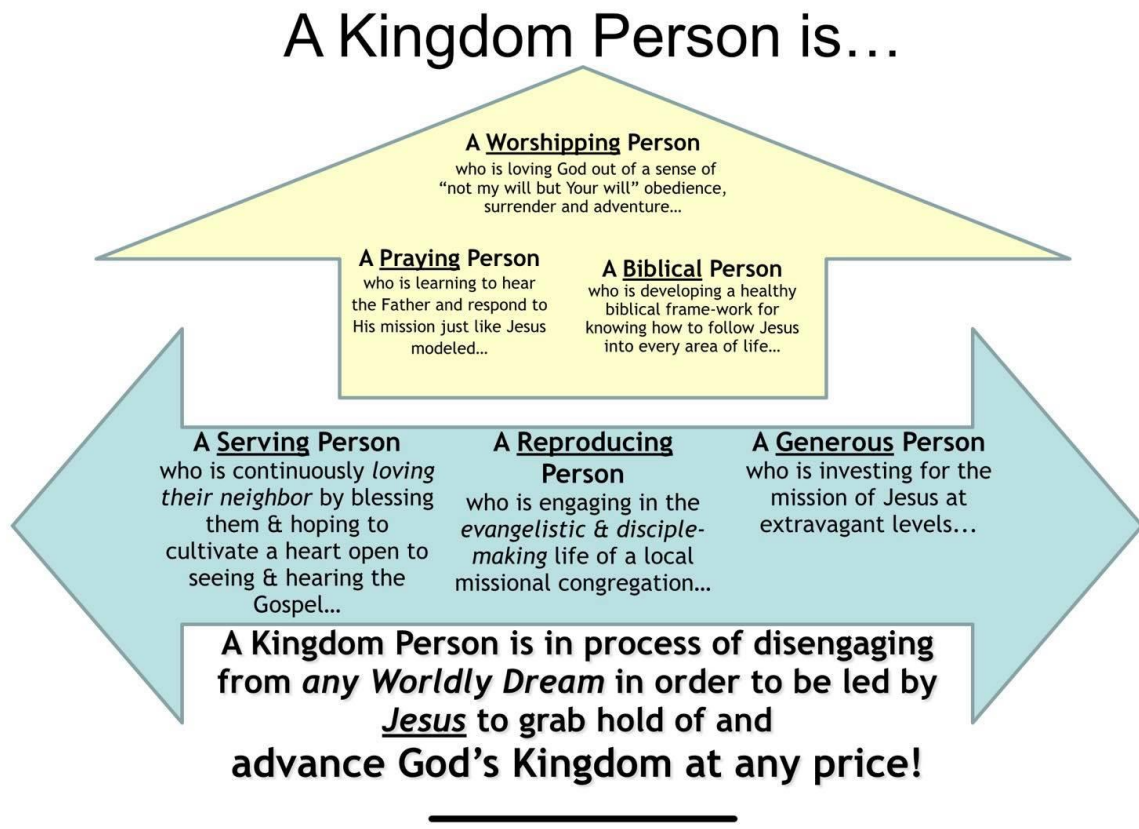
The 3 areas of ministry that build our Horizontal Relationship (connection to Man) are:

Service, Reproduction, and Generosity

For the Church to be an image of this Kingdom, we must support each other where we are strong and others are weak.

Personal Question: In what area are you strong? In what area are you weak?

Figure 1: The Kingdom Chart



Point 3: The Church is a _____, seeking where they can serve

3Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. 4Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, 5so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. 6In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. 7If your gift is serving

others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

- Romans 12:3-8

Core Lesson Question: What role is God calling us to fulfill?

The Church is always called to fulfill the mission of Evangelism and Worship. We call this the _____. Regardless of specific callings, all Kingdom People are called to _____ in service of the Lord.

The challenge facing the Church is, through _____, _____, and _____, to know the mind of God and his vision for their ministry in their time and place and to then accomplish that vision through _____, _____, and _____.