

1. Ask how well would you say you know the person sat at the side of you? Would you say out of 100 60/40 50/50 30/70 and why is this?
2. Could you tell me the names of their children, husband or wife? **Have a go**
3. Have you visited them in the last six weeks, or even thought enough about them to have called them?
4. Would you personally miss them if they did not attend this church? If so, why? And if not, why?
5. What does being part of a church mean to you personally, for surely you want more than just listening to me speak?
6. Are you happy with the amount of interaction you have with those who are supposed to be your brothers and sisters? **If yes, why? If not, why?**

Intro

This week as I was praying, I felt in the spirit that we were about to undergo an extension of a new development. In the spirit I saw a building site that was going wider and deeper so it can go higher. Every church needs **depth width & height**. Though height is what people seek, as height symbolises maybe attention, effectiveness, fame and popularity. Depth and width is what people need to feel and experience. Now, when we talk about depth and width we are of course referring to people's development and the way people interact with each other.

Philippians 1:9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and **depth** of insight.

2Corinthians 2:4 For I wrote to you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to grieve you but to let you know the **depth** of my love for you.

Romans 11:33 Oh, the **depth** of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths.

Ezekiel 41:4 And he measured the **length** of the inner sanctuary; it was twenty cubits, and its **width** was twenty cubits across the end of the outer sanctuary. He said to me, "This is the Most Holy Place".

Whether it **is love, knowledge, insight or wisdom**, there has to be depth and width in my Christianity, as well as depth in you as the people attending the Dream Centre Church. Most churches want height, but God measures us by our depth of love and concern for one another.

So if we are to become a church, then we cannot just become a church because we open our doors and hold meetings, we must become a church based on our width, depth and insight built into its people.

Acts 4:29-35: The message

"And now they're at it again! Take care of their threats and give your servants fearless confidence in preaching your Message, as you stretch out your hand to us in healings and miracles and wonders done in the name of your holy servant Jesus." While they were praying, the place where they were meeting trembled and shook. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak God's Word with fearless confidence. The whole congregation of believers was united as one — one heart, one mind! They didn't even claim ownership of their own possessions. No one said, "That's mine; you can't have it." They shared everything. The apostles gave powerful witness to the resurrection of the Master Jesus, and grace was on all of them. And so it turned out that not a person among them was needy. Those who owned fields or houses sold them and brought the price of the sale to the apostles and made an offering of it. The apostles then distributed it according to each person's need.

Operational dynamics

1. This was a people-centred church who not only heard the gospel, but they acted upon that which they individually and corporately had received.
2. This was a people-centred church who thought, though they were a large multitude of people, they were a large group who had one heart and one soul.
3. This was a people-centred church who knew the power of preferring one another, as they took a look around and decided that which they owned was for the common good of everyone.
4. This was a people-centred church who understood that together they were stronger than when they are on their own. They had community, spirit and power.
5. There was a great grace and power for explaining the scriptures to the people. Why? Because this was a people-centred church who wanted to do something with what they each received.
6. Great grace was upon each and everyone and corporately together.
7. Because they gathered their jars, the oil flowed in the house and **there was no lack**. (***This is a challenge to us as a house to live this kind of life, eradicating lack from our midst***)
8. There were role models who acted and exemplified new behaviour, such as Barnabas, in other words it wasn't a place of just talk, but demonstration and action.

Are you cheerful because you belong to Christ? Does His love comfort you? Is the Holy Spirit your companion? Has Christ been gentle and loving toward you? Then make my joy complete by agreeing with each other. Have the same love. Be one in spirit and purpose. Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud, instead be free of pride. Think others as better than yourselves. None of you should look out for just your own good. You should also so look out for the good of others. You should think in the same way Christ does. In his very nature he was good.

Philippians 2:1-6

Notice here how Paul is referring to a **distinct Christian behaviour** that must take place within those professing Christ. **The word 'behaviour'** simply denotes **one's actions, conduct and**

demeanour, along with one's way of doing things, all of which tell us whether one is all they profess to be. Paul's requirements are for the people to live according to apostolic patterns for not only their church life, but for the life of the church.

1. Agreeing with each other
2. Having the same purpose and love
3. Being one in that purpose
4. Not having selfish ambition
5. Not having a heart and life of pride
6. Thinking others better than yourself
7. Looking at the good in others which is the opposite of criticism
8. Having the mind of Christ
9. Possessing the nature of Christ

The church must become a place where people

- **Meet** in order to get to know:
- *When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey with haste, that they may lack nothing. And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful* **Titus 3:12-14**

Why would anyone maintain good works and meet urgent needs if you had never met the people.

- **Like:** When you get to know someone, a choice is then made as to whether you like what you have got to know.

The word **like** can denote kind, as meaning an explanation comparison of a similarity or a personal preference such as.

Acts 3:22 For Moses said; 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people. You must listen to everything he tells you.'

1 Corinthians 14:5 *I would like everyone of you to speak in tongues but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified.* **The church depth, width is the issue here.**

- **Talk:** What you get to like and know opens up the way for further opportunities to talk.

Acts 20:7 *On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and because he intended to leave the next day, kept taking until midnight.*

Acts 22:8 *But we want to hear what your views are, for we know that people everywhere are talking against this act.*

People love to talk and connect, you just have to provide a place for it to take place.

- **Trust:** What you talk about opens further the door for trust.

1 Corinthians 4:2 *Now it is required that those who have been given trust must prove faithful.*

2 Corinthians 13:6 *And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test*

Build: What you trust people with becomes a testimony that something has being built.

Cross pollinating

Illustrate problems with cultural thinking

African culture says drop in any time whether the wife or husband is in.

Western Culture feels uncomfortable if both parents are not in.

Africans will just drop in on people.

English people go when asked or invited.

Persians don't want you there and then tell you do you want a drink hoping you will say no.

One of the ways of creating this kind of life:

Create a mid week life group

Food will be used as a tool to gather, whereas the evening will consist of eating and talking to and with each other, as this is where empathy, compassion, concern and understanding is created from and that praying for each other consolidates that which you feel and agree on.