

# House Group Notes

21<sup>st</sup> March 2017



## Ichthus Values, Characteristics & Distinctives Session 7:

### Constitution or make up: Fellowship, Training & Mission

Last week we looked at inclusivity: race, age and gender, and this week as we continue our series on Ichthus' values, characteristics and distinctives, we will be looking at the fact that Ichthus' church life is made up of Fellowship, Training and Mission, and we'll see how linked these three things are.

#### Read the statement on fellowship, training and mission from Ichthus' website:

##### **FELLOWSHIP, TRAINING, MISSION.**

The make-up of the church is also three fold. First we are a fellowship where laughter, tears, joys, sorrows, and resources are shared together in training and mission. We believe the whole body of Christ must learn and train, and find a purpose in the mission of serving the world. Whilst we acknowledge the good work of theological colleges and missionary societies, we believe that the church is the place for hands-on training for service and mission.

#### Fellowship

Fellowship is a word that isn't used much outside of the church today and so it would be helpful to start by defining it. An online dictionary defines fellowship as "a friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests" and/or "a group of people meeting to pursue a shared interest or aim".

The fellowship of the ring, in Tolkien's Lord of The Rings book, is a group of nine individuals that come together with a common mission/aim, to see the evil ring of power destroyed. Their fellowship wasn't just to spend time together and have fun together, but it was to complete their mission of destroying the ring. Although it is good and right that as the church we love one another, enjoy spending time together and share in one another's life experiences, we also come together with a common purpose and mission.

#### Discuss:

- We'll explore this more later, but what do you think our common mission/aim is?
  - To love one another; to grow and become more like Christ; to be trained to serve; love those in our community; to see people saved; to usher in Christ's return
- In what ways do we fellowship together at Lee Green?
  - House group, church meetings, church lunch, events, everything we do, etc.

#### Training

##### Read Ephesians 4:1-16

We looked at each role of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, also known as the five-fold ministry gifts, in Overflow last year.

### **Explain:**

- Briefly explain what each of the five gifts and how they are given to the church to see it equipped and built up.
- Note the link to unity and fellowship in verses 2, 3, 4, 13 and 16 in particular. Also, fellowship is not just something we do with each other, but we have fellowship with God as we work towards his purposes.

### **Discuss:**

- In what ways is the church built up?
  - Ichthus bible school, house groups, prophetic words, teaching, etc.

### **Mission**

From the passage we just read in Ephesians 4, we have seen that one of the aims of fellowship and training is for Christ's body, the church, to be built up (see verses 12 & 14).

### **Discuss**

- How does the church grow?
  - Spiritually as individuals become more like Jesus; numerically by people being saved; etc.

We mentioned when discussing race in the last house group that Jesus instructs his disciples to go to all nations and that the Lord desires all people groups to be saved. Let's revisit those verses now in the context of mission.

### **Read Matthew 28:19-20**

Note that training/teaching appears in verse 20, training is essentially part of our mission.

### **Discuss**

- Do you think that Jesus' command is still relevant for us to day? Why?
- What does Jesus ask the disciples to do? Why?

You'll probably have noticed how linked Fellowship, Training and Mission are. All three can happen at the same time and all lead into each other.

We fellowship together with the aim of being trained up and working towards our common aims and mission, this is itself mission!

We are trained up so that we can better love one another and better work towards our common aims and mission! We work towards are common aims and mission so that we can better love one another, fellowship together and train/build each other up. Also we work towards the common aim/mission of seeing others saved so that there are more people to fellowship with, train up and work towards our common aims and mission with!

It all gets very confusing and intertwined!!! This is essentially because they are all part of the same thing and flow from our God who is 3-in-1.

### **Pray**

- For an ever increasing love for one another and desire to see each other grow
- For a desire to keep training and growing
- For any people who aren't Christians yet