

Questions for Gospel Communities

Put a tick by those statements that are clearly true of your gospel community and put at a cross by those which are clearly untrue.

A. God: Are you God-centred?

1. People often extol the goodness and greatness of God in normal conversation.
2. Our corporate worship stirs people's affections for God (their love, fear, hope, confidence, desire).
3. Prayer is a regular part of our life together.
4. People pray together outside meetings as and when issues arise.
5. When we pray as a community, most people contribute.
6. When we pray as a community, it is sometimes difficult because people readily contribute.
7. Our prayer requests focus on God and his glory rather than on us and our comfort.
8. We are trusting in God's sovereignty rather than trying to do his work of conversion or worrying about 'results'.

B. Love: Are you other-centred?

1. People often see one another between scheduled meetings.
2. Most people eat with other members of the community at least twice a week.
3. People often help one another in practical ways like doing chores for one another.
4. People feel a sense of responsibility for one another.
5. People use the language of 'we' rather than 'you' ('We should ...' rather than 'You should ...').
6. People are generous with their time, money, homes and possessions.
7. People are willing to discuss their time and money.
8. People make decisions with regard to the community and in consultation with the community.

C. The Bible: Are you word-centred?

1. There is a hunger for God's word and an excitement when it is taught.
2. People often talk about how the Spirit is speaking to them through his word.
3. The word of God is often discussed outside scheduled Bible studies.
4. People meet up to read the Bible together.
5. There is evidence that the word is changing individual lives.
6. There is evidence that the word is changing the life of the community as a whole.
7. People speak the truth in love when others face pastoral issues.
8. People look to the truth about God rather than blaming their circumstances?

D. Grace: Are you grace-centred?

1. People are open about their sin and struggles rather than hiding or pretending.
2. Conflict is open rather than suppressed and reconciliation is proactively pursued.
3. People repent of sinful attitudes like anxiety, pride, complaining, fear of others, self-justification, bitterness, anger and selfishness.
4. People repent of good works done for self-righteous motives.
5. People are not afraid to make mistakes.
6. People feel able to relax and enjoy leisure activities.
7. Broken people are attracted to our community.
8. We constantly return to the cross in our conversation, prayers and praise.

E. Mission: Are you mission-centred?

1. Unbelievers are involved in the life of our community.
2. We often have opportunities to talk about Jesus.
3. We are flexible and take risks for the sake of the gospel.
4. We are crossing cultural boundaries.
5. We are contributing to neighbourhood and city renewal.
6. We value involvement in work, business, art, culture, public service and government.
7. We have a vision to start a new gospel community or congregation.
8. We are actively and generously involved in mission around the world.