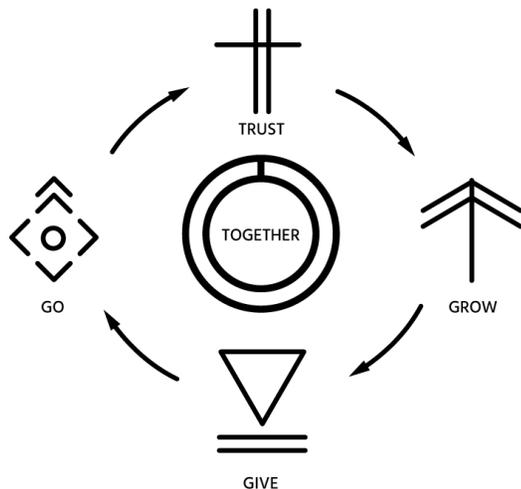


STATE OF THE UNION



2017: The Year of Learning, Living, & Giving the Gospel

APPETIZER: Ready – Set – Go!



DINE IN: How to achieve enlightenment

Ephesians 3

FIVE REASONS WE “DO CHURCH” TOGETHER...

1. Because we all have grace to receive from, and give to, one another (**v 2**; also **1 Peter 4:10**).
2. Because we learn and grow better together than alone (**v 4**).
3. Because the Church is God’s means to proclaim the Gospel (**vv 6-11**; **1 Timothy 3**).
 - a. Miraculous Unity
 - b. Suffering Servanthood
 - c. Testimony/Witness
4. Because the Gospel is the good news that God has done what religion can’t, and people need to see this freedom and confidence lived not hear it preached (**v 12**).
5. Because spiritual family reflects the essence of God (**vv 14-15**).

TAKE OUT: Are you ready to play your part?

1. Show up on SUNDAY
2. Share God’s grace by SERVING
3. Sign up for a HOME CHURCH
4. Participate in a HUDDLE
5. Empower the movement by GIVING

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. What is one spiritual highlight for you in 2016? How did God speak to you, convict you, encourage you through the ministry of The Meeting House?
2. What are you most encouraged by or looking forward to in 2017? (This could be something mentioned on Sunday or something you are hoping to experience.)

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Ephesians 3**.
 - a. What verse, word, or idea stands out to you? Why?
 - b. The mystery of the Gospel is now revealed – God wants to unify humanity in Christ! We understand this “by reading” Scripture (**v 4**). How often do you spend time reading the Bible? What motivates or helps you? What holds you back?
 - c. Paul sees our role not only to proclaim the gospel to other people, but also to declare the triumph of Christ to spiritual powers (presumably Satan and his dark angels). What good does knowing that do for us? Why tell us this?
 - d. Recall **v 2** (and **1 Peter 4:10**). What are some ways that you have recently experienced God’s grace toward you via a brother or sister in Christ? How have you sensed God “administrating/stewarding/dispensing” his grace recently through you? What are some ways you plan to partner with God to experience more of this in 2017?
 - e. ROLE PLAY: How does **verse 12** summarize the gospel? Practice sharing the gospel with each other based on the message of this verse.
 - f. MEDITATE: Take ten minutes to sit with, read, and meditate on **verses 14-21**. Then come back together and share what insights or encouragement God is sharing with you.

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Use your regular huddle questions to talk about your lives and to prepare you to pray for each other.