

# God's Plan for a Healthy Church

Ephesians 4:1-16

## The 80/20 Rule

The "vital few" and the "trivial many"

## Ephesians

Jesus' design for a healthy church

1 unified, diverse church

Formed by the grace of God

Filled with the presence of God

How do you and I fit in His plan?

4:1-6: Perfect unity

4:7-10: through diversity

4:11-13: people serve → the body grows

4:14-16: as each part does its work

## The Big Idea

The church grows in health and maturity  
as every part does its part

In Christ, every person is essential!

## What are we to do?

### Do your part

Given by Jesus: gifts and calling

It takes courage

Ask for help to know and do your part

"Fan into flame" your part. 2 Timothy 1:6

"Be diligent...give yourself wholly to them...so that everyone may see your progress" 1 Timothy 4:15

### Help each other find and do our parts

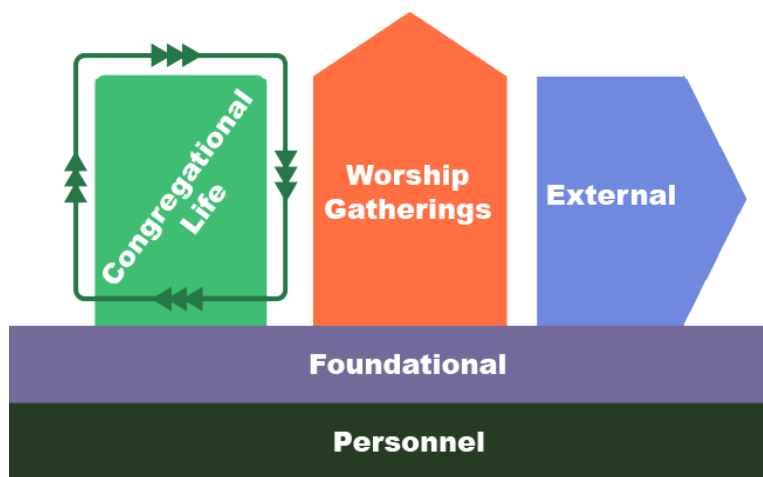
The church is healthier when more people do more of the work



## Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. Some questions that might help you know where you are to connect and serve:
  - a. Are you more of a word-oriented person or more of an action-oriented person, or both?
  - b. Do you thrive when you are with people, or does that tend to tire you out? (and you need alone time, or time in a small known group, to recover)
  - c. Do you want to be "on the front lines", or are you more inclined to be supporting other people who are "on the front lines"?
  - d. What roles have you played before in a church or in ministry, or in a family or other group? How did that seem to fit you?
  - e. Are there roles or parts of the church that capture your attention? Are there roles or parts of the church that you know you wouldn't want to do or be a part of?
  - f. What are strengths that you have? What are things that other people have told you are a strength?
  - g. What have you tried? How did it go?

- h. What about the church's vision and ministry are you most excited about?
- i. Are you more drawn to the life of the church together, or to reaching out beyond those who are currently connected with the church?
2. Some questions that might help you help others find places to connect and serve:
  - a. What qualities are important about places that you connect or serve or lead?
  - b. What parts of what you do could you invite someone else to do with you?
  - c. What parts of what you do could you invite someone else to try and do?
  - d. In the people you are around most, what gifts or interests do you see? Have you told them?
  - e. Who is someone you might invite to do a part of what you do with you, or in your place?
3. Here is a chart that gives an overview of ways that people are "doing the work of the ministry" at Crossway. What is the overall vision and purpose of the church? How do these different parts of the church contribute to that vision and purpose?



**Congregational Life:** ways we serve and contribute apart from our worship gatherings: Crossway Kids, Youth, Crossway Multinational Fellowship (college/ young adult), Life Groups, Helps, Financial assistance, Meals

**Worship Gatherings:** music team, Scripture reading, announcements, prayer, greeting, media & arts, setup/ teardown, worship technology, meals

**External Ministry:** oversee money and emphasis for equipping people, local ministry, regional connections, global projects, missionaries

**Foundational:** Board/Elders, Nominating Committee, Finance, Prayer, Safety

**Personnel:** pastor, pastoral intern, administration

4. Would you...
  - a. Pray daily for 2 weeks about where you are to connect and serve at Crossway and beyond. Perhaps there is a new way for you to serve. Perhaps it is time to make a change. Jesus is the one who apportions grace to people and who masterfully fits people together. Ask Him to lead you and to help you follow.
  - b. Pray daily for 2 weeks about someone else finding where they are to connect and serve at Crossway and beyond. Perhaps there is someone who could join in the places where you connect and serve. Perhaps you could do something new together with that person.
  - c. Ask leadership of the church or of an area of ministry that catches your attention: where and how could I do a part in this ministry at Crossway?

### Conversation starters this week

- What is your purpose in life?
- Where do you connect and serve beyond yourself?
- Do you see yourself as part of the "vital few" in places where you work or contribute? Or do you feel more like you are part of the "trivial many"?