

Lombard Gospel Chapel

A 3 Part Series on The Church

Why can't your iPod be your worship leader, your tablet be your pastor, and your friends your fellowship and accountability?

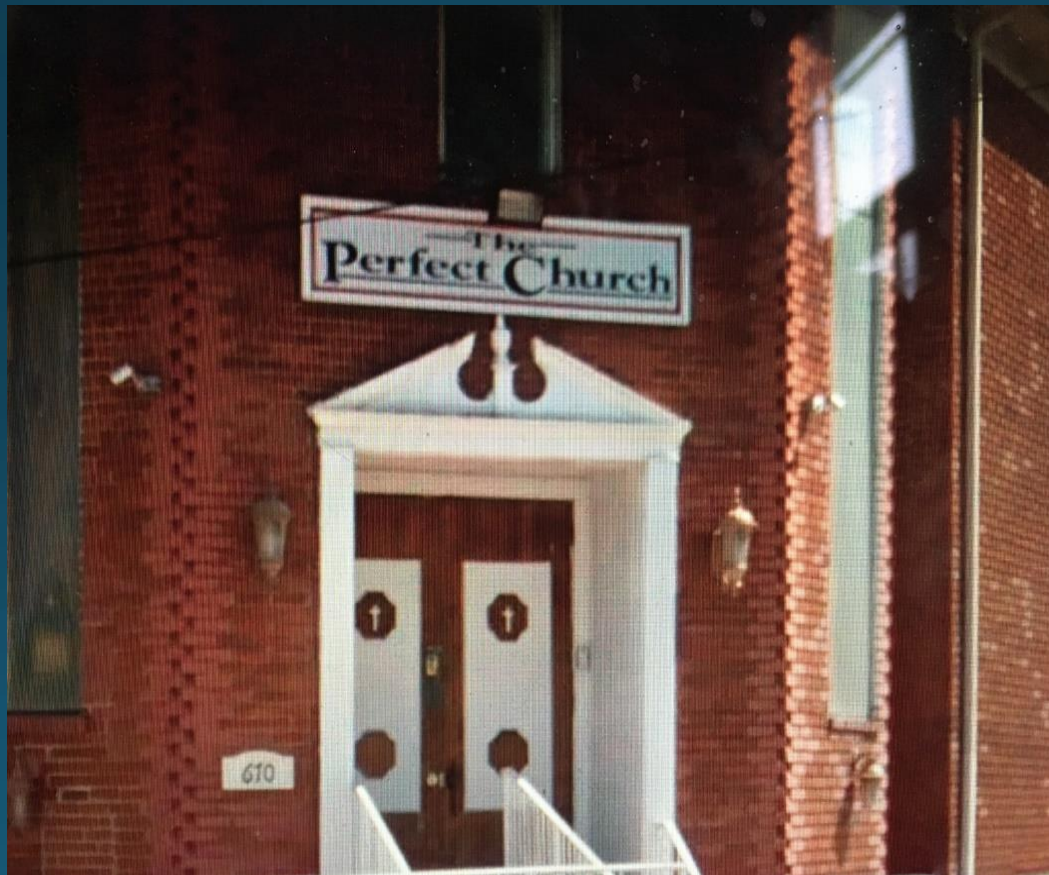
John MacArthur

“The Dearest Place on Earth”

The Local Church

"There are no perfect churches."

Matt Chandler



The Dearest Place on Earth

"...the Church is faulty, but that is no excuse for your not joining it, if you are the Lord's."

Charles Spurgeon

The Dearest Place on Earth

"...a sanctuary for sinners saved by Grace, who, though they are saved, are still sinners and need all the help they can derive from the sympathy and guidance of their fellow Believers."

Charles Spurgeon

The Dearest Place on Earth

"...The Church is the nursery for God's weak children where they are nourished and grow strong. It is the fold for Christ's sheep—the home for Christ's family."

Charles Spurgeon

LGC's Statement of Faith

12. That the Lord has called believers to fellowship together in local churches. Our congregation, though autonomous in government, exists in vital union with all other believers. As Christians, we are to join in worshiping the living God, praying, building up one another in the faith, giving our time and money as good and faithful stewards for the work of God. We are also to observe the Lord's Supper, baptize new believers, teach the Word of God, and proclaim the message of Christ.

(1 Corinthians 1:2; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:24-25; Ephesians 4:13)

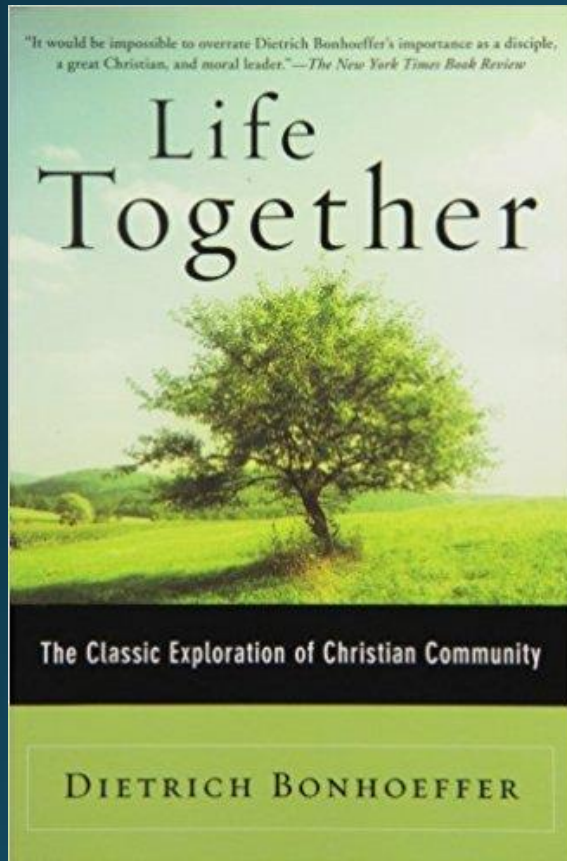
Major Points

1. We are **together for good**

1 Corinthians 1:2-9

The Greek word for Church: ekklésia

- Original Word: ἐκκλησία, ας, ἡ
- Definition of ekklésia: an assembly, congregation, church
 - ek, "out from and to" and
 - kaléō, "to call"
- Properly put, Ekklesia means: people called out from the world and to God, the outcome being the Church, the mystical body of Christ.



Psalms 133:1:
"Behold how good
and how pleasant it
is for brethren to
dwell together in
unity." (NIV)

Act 2:42-47

What does it mean to get proximate?

- We have to get proximate to people who are suffering
- When you get close to people that are marginalized, you understand nuances and begin figuring things out
- Leadership requires that the people we are leading know that we care for them
- Caring means we need to find ways to get close. Have in-person conversations.



"There can be no maturity in the spiritual life, no obedience in following Jesus, no wholeness in the Christian life, apart from an immersion in, and embrace of, community.

I am not myself by myself."

Eugene Peterson

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Major Points

1. We are **together for good**
2. We **participate with passion**

“Once we are part of a church that is theologically correct, we must commit ourselves to the people of that congregation. This will not be easy.

Periodically it will mean putting up with Sunday morning services that are not altogether uplifting or delightful or entertaining. But nothing militates against community like the desire to be entertained. Ultimately Christian communities come into existence only when modern Christians replace the desire to feel good on Sunday with the passion to participate fully in the body of Christ.”

Henri Nouwen

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Participants not just spectators

1 Peter 2:5-10

Reformation Day – Oct. 31, 1517



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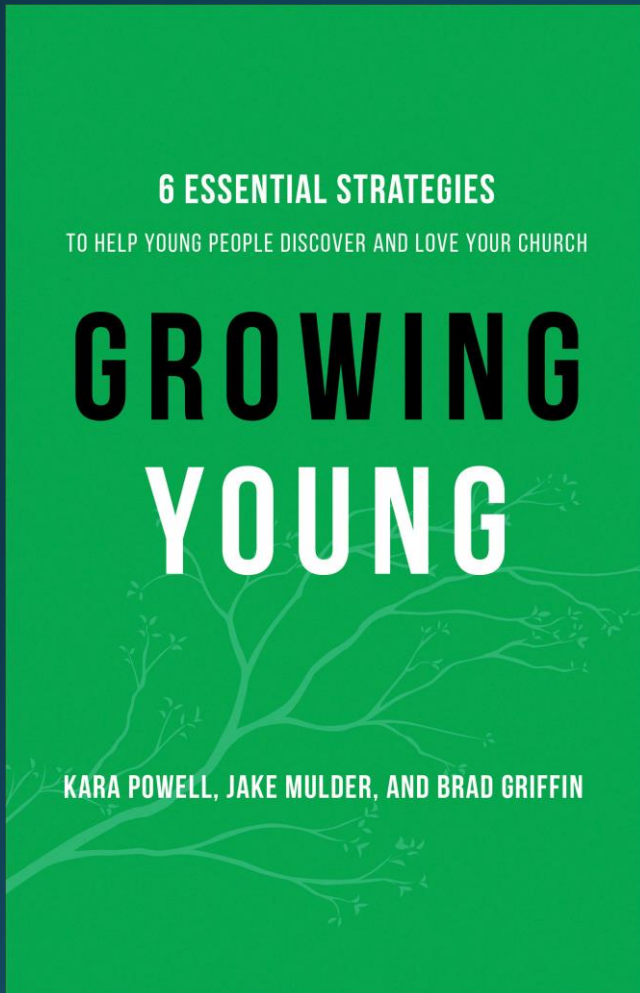
1. We are **together for good**
2. We **participate with passion**
3. We **function faithfully**

Acts 2:42

The Local Church – *The Dearest Place on Earth*

1. We **together** for good
2. We **participate** with passion
3. We **function** faithfully

1 Tim 4:11-16



- A welcoming community - like a family.
- Empathetic conversations
- Challenged to live a radical life focused on Jesus

The Church – The Dearest Place on Earth



Where “family love” can be found.