

Vineyard DNA

I. Tonight we're going to talk a little bit about where we a church come from and what are some of the things that are woven into the fabric of a Vineyard church.

A. It's important to at least get a general understanding of these things so that when people ask you, "What's a Vineyard Church?" you can give some sort of answer.

B. Most people who have been in the Vineyard for a while will probably tell you that they weren't looking for a Vineyard church per se', but really connected when they found one.

1. John Wimber, one of the founding members of the Vineyard organization used to say, "You don't join Vineyard, you find out that _____."

II. A brief history of the Vineyard.

A. John was a jazz musician who found Jesus in the 60's.

1. It was a gradual process for him because he was so turned off by the _____ of the church.

a) "Brother" "Are you washed in the blood of the lamb?"

b) He felt that the church was difficult for the lost to relate to.

B. Soon after John's conversion, he developed a passion for "doing the stuff" of the gospels.

1. He read in the Bible about healing the sick, casting out demons, feeding the poor, and helping the brokenhearted and knew that the church should be about doing these things.

C. In 1977, John started a church called Calvary Chapel.

1. It grew like crazy and thousands of people were saved and experienced genuine healings.

D. In 1982, they left the Calvary Chapel movement and changed their name to "Vineyard Christian Fellowship.

1. Even though they were moving in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, they didn't consider themselves pentecostal, but they were way too charismatic for a conservative Evangelical church.

E. Eventually, pastors from all around the country came to learn from Vineyard Christian fellowship.

1. That, combined with a strong passion for _____, turned it from a church, into a movement.

F. Today there are over 1,500 Vineyard churches around the world.

III. Vineyard philosophy of ministry

A. The Bible is our _____

1. It's not enough to know the Bible. We need to practice it, encounter God through it, and be transformed by it.

B. The Kingdom of God

1. The Kingdom of God theology says that God made everything and rules over everything.

2. There was a rebellion in the Kingdom when satan deceived Adam and sin, sickness, and death were introduced.

3. Jesus defeated satan when He came and brought forgiveness, healing, and life.

a) "The Kingdom refers to the _____ of God's rule, rather than a place.

- (1) If my son is in someone else's house, I can exercise my kingdom rule, by going into that house and taking him home.
4. So why is there still sin, sickness, and death?
 - a) The future age of God's rule became present when Jesus came, but the "present evil age" spoken about in Galatians 1:4 won't come to an end until _____.
 - b) It's why we refer to the Kingdom of God as the "now and not yet" or the "present and coming" Kingdom.
 5. The Kingdom is the rule of God, the Church is the community that receives and expresses that rule of God.
 - a) In a sense, when we become Christians, we are saying, "I'm now a subject in God's Kingdom, and He's my King."

IV. Vineyard model of community

- A. One typical model of community is what's called a "_____".
 1. In this model, the leader is dominant, and relationships with the leader are like parent/child relationships.
 2. There is a strong boundary around the community and a sense that those in the community are right, and those outside are wrong.
- B. The Vineyard follows a "_____".
 1. In this model, there is a strong set of values at the center of the community and a team of leaders who are modeling and living out those values.
 2. Integration takes place as people move closer to _____ of the community.
 3. People are treated as individuals, with unique giftings and callings, rather than resources to be used to build the organization.
 4. Personal worth comes from our _____, instead of titles or roles within the community.
 5. We evangelize because we love people and want to help them live the life God has for them.
 6. We're all seeking to live out a common set of values together.
- C. A typical community experience might look like this...
 1. A person visits the church and is out in the **crowd**.
 2. They come regularly and become part of the **congregation**.
 3. They join a small group.
 4. They become a **member**.
 5. They take the Roots, Growth, and Branches classes and start serving on a **team**.
 6. They become an **apprentice** or an **intern**.
 7. They become a **leader**.
 8. They may even be commissioned or sent out to minister elsewhere, or join the mission field.
 - a) This all happens as they are moving closer to the values of the church.
 - b) Advancement in leadership usually has very little to do with talent and skill and a lot to do with _____ and living out the values of the church.
 - c) Needless to say, a person looking for a quick path into leadership would probably be very frustrated in this model.

V. Lastly, the following are a few key characteristics found in Vineyard churches.

- A. A Bible teaching church
 - 1. Knowing it AND experiencing it.
- B. A worshipping church
 - 1. Our first priority as a people of God is worshipping Him.
- C. A fellowshipping church
 - 1. Worship leads to community, which leads to wholeness.
- D. A _____ church.
- E. A training church
 - 1. We must all learn to do the stuff.
- F. A ministering to the poor church
- G. An evangelical church
 - 1. To only do good works without proclaiming the good news is short changing them.
- H. A discipling church
 - 1. leading them to _____.
- I. A merciful church
 - 1. a safe place for the broken and the outcast.
- J. A giving church
- K. A growing church
 - 1. Anything healthy _____.
- L. A relevant church
 - 1. Always seeking ways to break into new cultures
- M. A Kingdom church
 - 1. We are in a spiritual battle to expand God's Kingdom in our community and make Him famous.
- N. A _____ church
 - 1. The church is a mission base for training and sending people out for ministry and missions.