

Currently our Community Groups are on Summer Break, which means that it is up to each group to decide if and when they will meet over the summer months. It isn't a time away from growth, though, and so we will continue to prepare these Growth Guides as a tool that you can use individually, as a family, or as a group. Community Groups will resume again during the week of September 16, 2012.

Consider...

Use the summary and questions to consider this week's message and its implications in your life:

Message Summary

In Part 2 of the PLANTED series, Pastor Paul explored one simple question: if God wants us planted, where does God want us planted? Many people believe it doesn't matter where we're planted, but the wrong places can lead to the wrong outcomes, as Matthew 13 and the Parable of the Sower clearly shows. In fact, location is huge when it comes to being planted (just like your realtor has always told you!).

We also found that it isn't enough to be a part of the big, worldwide body because we need to have a relational context if we're going to live out the relational commands of the Bible. When God tells us to love each other, He expects us to be near the each others that we're loving! That is done in the context of the local church.

Unfortunately, many of us don't like that. The idea of committing to a local body of believers doesn't excite us because we don't see membership from a Biblical perspective. We see it as selection (choosing who to let in and keep out) but God sees it as connection (growing roots together to make each other stronger). The bottom line? You can't be a part of the body if you live apart from the body. We need to be planted.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye opening, or troubling? Explain.
- 1 Peter 2:5 describes the church as a house being built from living stones. What insights can we draw about the relationships within the church from that analogy?
- Pastor Paul made the statement that living independently isn't Biblical and read Romans 14:7. How does that statement affect you? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- Make a list of as many contrasts as you can between how the world sees membership and how the church should see membership. Which list most accurately reflects YOUR view?
- This week, take the time to decide if you are willing to take the next step of membership in the local church, and specifically, The Gathering.

Commit...

Think and pray through your answers to the following questions in order to commit your life to living out what you've learned this week:

- What are some of the main truths/passages that God wants you to know from this message?
- Based on that truth/passage, what is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?