



Who is CRCC...2016! Building According to the Pattern by the Grace of God

July 24, 2016

CRCC FOUNDATION SCRIPTURES:

1. *And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. (36) When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (37) Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; (38) therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:35-38 ESV)*
2. *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20 ESV)*

So who is CRCC and what are we trying to do?

Extrapolated from these verses is our simple Vision:

1. **"Reaching, Teaching, and Releasing Hurting People through the Power of Jesus Christ!"**
 - a. Reaching comes from the Lord's example of compassionately proclaiming the **Gospel**. (Mat 9:35)
 - b. Teaching comes from the Lord's example of declaring His Word everywhere He went. (Mat 9:35)
 - c. Releasing comes from the Lord's example of healing others and setting them free from sin and bondage, and calling them to follow Him. (Mat 9:35)
2. **We are trying to make disciples!**
 - a. We believe discipleship is simply *Meeting Jesus* (Reaching), *Knowing Jesus* (Teaching), and *Serving Jesus* (Releasing).
 - b. What our homes need, communities need, and Nation needs is more **disciples** of Jesus! Our problem here is twofold:
 1. We rarely get to the root of what ails us.
 2. When we do, we rarely attack the problem according to God's **design**.
 - c. And yet this was Christ's priority! We must be intentional about the priorities of Christ! We must give ourselves fully to His heart, His plan, His commands, and His mission.

ELEMENTS OF AN INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS (from *Simple Church* by Thom Rainer)

1. **Clarity**

We achieve clarity when what our church is trying to do (our discipleship process) is understood by our people. *Understanding always precedes commitment.* A lack of clarity breeds confusion and people moving in several directions.

2. **Movement**

The discipleship process at CRCC is sequential so *our great folks know what to do next.* As in a relay race, winning is about the “handoffs.” It’s about how a person is “handed off” from one level of commitment to the next.

3. **Alignment**

All ministries and programs are placed along the process to facilitate movement. If done right, alignment produces great momentum because *everyone is moving in the same direction around the process.*

4. **Focus**

This is the ability to *abandon everything that falls outside the process.* It means sometimes saying “no.” Without focus the process gets buried under crisis and “good” ideas.



Here is our discipleship process; things we ask everyone in membership to do:

1. Worship as a family and invite others (Reaching)
2. Be active in Care Group and family devotions (Teaching)
3. Serve the Church and the community (Releasing)

We believe these three elements, if done with passion and discipline over time, push forward the Great Commission of Christ.

WORSHIPPING AS A FAMILY AND INVITING OTHERS (REACHING)

1. **CRCC is a church that wants to show reverence for the Lord's Day that men and women might come to know Him!**
2. Sunday is a time where we look forward to gathering together with family, friends, and even those we've invited to hear what we pray is a solid, exegetical, expository Word and to pray and sing to God together!
3. We also believe the biblical pattern for worship is families staying together. It's a great model of what should be happening at home! ☺
4. Giving God one day in seven is the biblical pattern...a day for worship, meditation, and reflection upon the work of Christ.
5. At CRCC, we believe this time is critical to discipleship because:
 - You ensure that your focus is God-ward through worship.
 - You learn how to give.
 - You keep your heart tender towards the unsaved.
 - You get encouragement and fellowship.
 - You receive needful instruction.
 - You learn sacrifice and how to serve.
 - You develop a love for the local church.
 - You get your family moving together on one accord.
 - You are better able to trade individualism for community.
 - You walk in obedience to God's Word.

BE ACTIVE IN CARE GROUP AND FAMILY DEVOTIONS (TEACHING)

1. **CRCC is a church that believes in intentional growth in small groups, both within families AND within the local Body of believers.**
2. With great *intentionality*, we pause daily to study the Word, daily to catechize and train our children, weekly to hear a sermon, bi-weekly to gather in smaller groups to study and pray, and read Christ-honoring books as we are led.
3. Much of our ministry is built on the transforming power of doing what Jesus did most; teach! We are striving towards a *Biblical Worldview*...declaring that Jesus is Lord in every area of life!
4. Our Care Groups are critical to the discipleship process at CRCC. They help us "know Jesus" because among other things, you learn to love others; that is what disciples do!

- "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35)
 - And do not forget...Care Groups are in communities! They can serve them!
5. As mentioned, we also spend considerable time teaching and discipling our children. We have learned that the biblical command and pattern is for parents to take charge of their children's spiritual growth.

At CRCC, every household is encouraged to implement consistent *Family Worship* and to teach a historical, protestant catechism (or some kind of healthy devotional), study Scripture together, discuss spiritual things, pray, and sing songs of worship and adoration to God.

SERVE THE CHURCH AND THE COMMUNITY (RELEASING)

1. **CRCC is a church that believes that discipleship is incomplete without serving others.**
2. Being released is about serving others! No other "releasing" makes any Kingdom sense!
3. We ask *each person* within CRCC to choose a ministry to serve in upon completion of Covenant Life class for at least 6 months, and then if necessary, transition into a longer term commitment in ministry better aligned with his or her gifts and passions.
4. We also ask *each member* to:

Minister to lost people

- ✓ Engage in the ministry of **hospitality**. Dedicate one evening per month (as an example) to open your home to someone with a view towards sharing the Gospel and increasing discipleship.
- ✓ Actively share the Gospel in other places as well, from the street corner to the abortion clinic to the local grocery store. Take those tracts and use them!
- ✓ Have you read *The School of Biblical Evangelism* book or taken the class? ☺

Serve the community

- ✓ Dedicate at least one evening or day per month to be a **volunteer** (Crisis Pregnancy Center, Boys and Girls Club, a Shelter, Hospitals/Nursing Homes, being a Big Brother or Sister right here at CRCC, serve an elderly neighbor, or create a personal ministry that meets a need!
- ✓ Get the whole family involved in whatever community ministry you decide upon and watch your children change!
- ✓ *We recognize this is different than a programmatic approach, but we see great sustainability in building community service based out of homes and individual passions!* If we will truly "deploy" as a congregation, we can multiply our efforts while taking all our CRCC distinctives with us!

Think globally

- ✓ What other parts of the world does God want my family to bless?
- ✓ Build global praying into your family worship, sponsor a child another nation, consider missions trips, etc.

To be sure, CRCC does other things: benevolence both inside and outside the church as needs arise, bi-yearly prayer cards to the surrounding Great Bridge Blvd neighborhood, monthly House of Blessing food pantry donations, yearly Community Clothes give-away, Thanksgiving and Christmas benevolence, yearly FPU outreach, Call to Battle conferences, The CPC Walk for Life and Baby Bottle campaign, supporting the ministry of Adoption, SIS/Brotherhood meetings which are open to all, giving monthly to missions, etc.

*But the bulk of the ministry God has given is organic and cannot be easily tracked; this precious ministry flows from individual hearts and homes that have been transformed by the Gospel. It flows through **YOU**. :)*

So, “WHO IS CRCC?”

*CRCC is a church focused on glorifying Christ and discipling others. A Christ-centered view of ministry and the Sufficiency of Scripture has caused us to focus on a few simple, but **foundational** things Jesus commands for the home and Church. **His command to “go and make disciples” is the heartbeat of what we do.***

- David declared in Psalms 11:3, “*If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?*”
- Isaiah gives an answer: “*And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.*” (Isa 58:12)

CRCC is attempting to rebuild critical foundations. This type of work is slow...it may even seem like not much is happening. If one looks a bit harder, they can see generational change underway, by the grace of Christ. The proof is all around you.

May the LORD bless our efforts to honor Him, and may He bless each and every one of you!

Amen.