DMT-This is How we do it 3/5/18

Being a Faithful Member of the Body

What is the church?

* The Big C Church is all those who Christ died to redeem, all those who are saved by the death of Christ, this includes all true believers for all time (both in NT and OT) *Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her* (Eph. 5:25)
* Who is ultimately over the church?
	+ God put Jesus as the head over the church. *He has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.* (Eph. 1:22-23)
* Who built the church?
	+ Jesus builds his church by calling people to himself. (Matt. 16:18) Jesus building the church is a continuation of the pattern that God started in the OT of calling people to himself. (Deut. 4:10) The church is a gift of grace to believers. Bonhoeffer says, “…Christians are privileged to live in visible fellowship with other Christians.  It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God’s Word and sacrament.  Not all Christians receive this blessing.  The imprisoned, the sick, the scattered lonely, the proclaimers of the Gospel in heathen lands stand alone.  They know that visible fellowship is a blessing…
* There is also the local church, which is a body of believers gathering together. We need to be carful not to discount certain churches based on their size. As if to say, only house churches are the true representation of what church is. We see examples of the larger Church and examples of local house churches in scripture. (1 Cor. 16:19) Rather we should see the community of God’s people considered at any level can be rightly called a church. But there are marks or qualification of the church. Just having a Bible study is not church.
	+ Qualifications for church can be broken into two categories
		- Preaching of the Word
		- Sacraments (baptism and Lord’s supper)
			* Church Discipline??

What the church isn’t

* A bible study
* John Piper
* You sitting at home listening to a podcast
* Hanging out with your Christian friends
* The BSU
* The church is not you, there are exceptions where believers are in prison, but the church is fundamentally corporate.

What is the BSU?

* Equipping ground
* We are a college group that is hopefully sending you to church more equipped to serve your church
	+ How do we do this?
		- Leadership team- train you to be leaders so you can serve and be leaders in your church.
		- Disciple people, share the gospel, training you to walk with God daily are kingdom skill that we hope you are taking to your church.
		- Paradigm is not a sermon. It is an interactive bible study. The word is preached, but we do not partake of the sacraments.

What the BSU isn’t

* a Church/parachurch
* What are struggles you have faced encouraging your disciple to be involved in their church?
	+ Are you asking them about church? What they are learning? Does your disciple view church as important? or if something better comes along on a Sunday morning they’ll skip out?
	+ Are they apart of a local community group where they can get to know other members of their church on a deeper level? Are there people from your church that would run after you with the gospel if you started sliding? or do you only have friends like that at the BSU? (\*you SHOULD have people at your church who would run after you!)
* Since the BSU is not a church it is important that you as a disciple maker regularly attend a local church. It is important that you encourage your disciple to be attending a local church. Let’s remember that it is not enough to just show up on a Sunday for church. (be a member, find an area to start serving \*childcare, greeting, sound, worship, set up\*, attend a community group)
* Lastly, and maybe most importantly and seriously. Church is not an option. If you said yes to Jesus, you said yes to His Body.
	+ Remember that being able to participate in a local church is a gift of grace from God. “It is true, of course, that what is an unspeakable gift of God for the lonely individual is easily disregarded and trodden under foot by those who have the gift every day.  It is easily forgotten that the fellowship of Christian brethren is a gift of grace, a gift of the Kingdom of God that any day may be taken from us, that the time that still separates us from utter loneliness may be brief indeed.  *Therefore, let him who until now has had the privilege of living in common Christian life with other Christians praise God’s grace from the bottom of his heart.  Let him thank God on his knees and declare: It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brethren.*” -Bonhoeffer
	+ If you or your disciple are not a faithful member of the body you are living in sin. You are rejecting the very thing Jesus died for! God made it very clear that you are to be a part of a church. (Heb. 10:24-25) If you are discontent with your church or wish your church was more like the BSU or if you feel that the BSU is taking you away from your church, please chat with a staff member. The last thing anyone on staff wants to do is to take you away from the Body.

What are practical ways to talk about church with your disciple?

* Ask, “how’s church going”, “What are you learning”, “Where are you serving” (if your disciple has a pattern of not going to church, you need to address this. Common excuses are homework, friends, family in town, sleep, studying) Help them establish themselves as their own church member, not just going to church with their family. It is time they establish themselves as their own individual church member, they need to give and serve on their own apart from mom and dad.
* If they confess sin ask, “Who in your church knows about this” encourage them to seek someone out in their church to tell this to. (pastor, elder, community group leader, parents)