

DNA Studies Workbook



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Introduction

Crossway Chapel is a movement of relationally networked, likeminded, interdependent churches who operate as a family with a common mission *to plant and support healthy, reproducing churches and regional networks of churches throughout the world for the glory of God.*

As we seek to faithfully undertake this incredible mission, there is great diversity among the growing number of local bodies within the Crossway Chapel Movement of Churches. We celebrate the variety of ways that each church goes about carrying out Christ's gospel mission. However, there are elements of ministry philosophy shared by all of the churches that create a common ministry culture across the movement (our "DNA"). These studies are designed to help Christians discover and embrace this common biblical conviction, ministry philosophy, and leadership culture firsthand as well as preserve and advance the heart of it as the movement grows by God's grace.

We trust that as you diligently and prayerfully study, discuss, and learn from God's word you will be encouraged and equipped for passionately and purposefully following the Lord Jesus Christ in all of life. It also our goal that the word of God through these studies will ensure generations of faithful servants and leaders throughout all of the Crossway churches for decades to come. We hope your investment of studying this material fuels your love for Jesus as well as your passion to give these truths away to as many as God enables.

Part 1 Biblical Distinctives

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We join with the apostle Paul in believing that THE GOSPEL is THE matter of first importance in all of life (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). The gospel is not simply the message we believe "by which we are saved", but it is also the reality "in which we stand" in our daily Christian lives. Being centered on the gospel means living each day in the good of the cross of Jesus Christ so that it constantly fuels.

- True humility, because we are reminded of our sin and helplessness apart from Christ, and how He willingly suffered in our place to pay the penalty we deserved.
- Fresh faith for today and tomorrow. As we are daily reminded of God's willing sacrifice of His own son for us, then we are reminded of His promise to freely give us all things (Romans 8:32) and His commitment to work for our good in all things (Romans 8:28).
- Genuine worship because we are reminded of God's rich mercy and the undeserved favor He lavished on us. What a great love He has for us, and what a love welling up within us for Him in response!
- Real holiness because we are reminded of the great price of our sin, and our striving for obedience is not an attempt to earn His love or favor, but rather a reflection of our love for Him.
- Passion for mission because we are reminded of the wonder of what He did for us and we want to hold out the hope of the gospel to others.

We have purposed to bring out this broader gospel focus both directly and indirectly through these studies.

Within our commitment to the gospel and foundational truths of historical Orthodox Christianity, in the Crossway Chapel movement we have adopted the Biblical Distinctives covered on the following pages. These Distinctives will certainly align us with many local churches but also set us apart graciously from others. While Crossway holds true to this Biblical doctrine in our teaching and conviction, we do not seek to be known for what we are against or to be set apart in spirit from some of our other brothers and sisters in the Universal Body of Christ.

For each individual assignment, please study the passages in context that are listed and answer the questions as you go. Be concise in your answers. List specific principles that you glean from your study of these passages and give the accompanying scripture reference. Finish the assignment by summarizing what you have learned into a short principle statement and write it in the space provided.

The Life Changing Scriptures

Principle:

Old Testament

Joshua 1:8, Psalm 19:7-11, Psalm 119:105, Psalm 119:160, Isaiah 40:7-8

New Testament

2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Timothy 4:3, Hebrews 4:12, 1 Peter 1:22 – 2:2, 2 Peter 1:20-21

1. How does the concept of moral relativity (i.e. no such thing as absolutes, right or wrong) fit with what the Bible claims? In what ways do you see the concept of moral relativity at work in our society?

2. How should the truth of these passages influence the way you view the Word of God? How important is your view of the Word of God in relation to how you live?

3. Why do you think it is important for a church to be committed to a biblical philosophy of ministry (i.e. the church's priorities come from the Scriptures)?

4. How would you know if a church is genuinely committed to the Scriptures?

5. Please summarize the collective teaching of these verses in a short principle in the space provided above.

6. What are some recent examples that reflect the role the Word of God has in your life?

7. What is your plan of becoming, by the grace of God, a man or woman of the Word?

God, the Author of Salvation

Principle:

John 6:44, John 10:25-29, Romans 3:9-10, Romans 5:8-9, Romans 8:12, Romans 8:29-39, Romans 9:22-23, 2 Corinthians 4:4-6, Ephesians 2:1-10

1. What do Ephesians 2:1-10 and Romans 3:9-10 tell us about the condition of unbelieving man? Are they neutral beings? What are the implications?

2. Why was the death of Jesus Christ necessary to bring us back into a right relationship with God? What did Jesus accomplish for you on the cross?

3. What does it mean to be "justified"? How can we be justified when we are indeed guilty of sin and deserving of death?

4. According to 2 Corinthians 4:4-6 and John 6:44, what is the only way that someone can come to believe in Jesus or repent unto salvation?

5. In a similar way, what does Romans 9:22-23 and the surrounding context tell us of God's role in our coming to saving faith in Jesus?

6. Why is the phrase "But God..." so important in Ephesians 2:4? What does the word "grace" mean in Romans 3:24?

7. What do John 10:25-29 and Romans 8:29-39 tell us concerning the issue of eternal security ("once saved, always saved")?

8. How do these truths impact: (1) your view of yourself? (2) your worship and love for God? (3) your sharing Christ with loved ones and family? and (4) your confidence and security in God's love for you?

9. Summarize these verses into a simple and clear summary principle and write it in the space provided above.

The Fruit of Salvation

Principle:

John 14:21-24, John 15:8, Romans 6, Romans 8:16, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 5:16-24, Titus 1:16, James 2:14-26, 1 John 2:3-4, 1 John 3:8-10

1. What is the connection between what God has done in us and the practical outworking of it in how we live?

2. Complete the following sentence: "For a Christian, obedience is..."

3. What significance or role do you think your emotions (how you feel) should have in obeying God's Word? Why?

4. Where does assurance that we truly are God's children come from?

5. What role does obedience have in our ability to truly experience that assurance?

6. Summarize these verses into a simple and clear summary principle and write it in the space provided above.

7. How does this principle impact your relationship with God? Your relationship with other Christians?Your relationship with friends who do not know the Lord?

The Church in God's Plan

Principle:

Matthew 16:13-18; 28:19-20

Acts 1:8; 2:41-43; 8:1-3; 11:22-26, 13:1-3; 14:21-28;15:2-4, 22-36; 16:4; 18:22; 20:17,28,32; 21:18-19

Philippians 1:1, 27

1. In the Matthew 16 and 28 passages what does Jesus reveal about His plan to bring people to God during this age?

2. In the Acts passages, what pattern of expansion can you see unfolding in the process of the spread of the gospel? What was the primary context and focus for life and outreach of believers?

3. Describe the relationship Paul had with the church in Jerusalem (Acts 11:22; 15:1-4; 16:4; 21:18-19), and the church at Syrian Antioch (Acts 11:25-30; 13:1-3; 14:21-28; 15:1-2, 30-33; 18:22-23).

4. Based upon what you've seen about the development of the local church in this lesson so far, describe the role you think the local church should have in missionary work.

5. What might be some of the downsides for individuals who go out to do missionary work, but are not sent out or commissioned by a local church?

6. How do many of the epistles (such as 1 & 2 Corinthians, Romans, Galatians, Philippians, etc.) fit into the pattern we see in Acts?

7. Based upon the biblical pattern, what kind of relationship do you think would be best for various ministries and missionary agencies operating outside of the local church to have with the local church? What would be some of the implications of this relationship? How might it look in practice?

8. Summarize the pattern of life and outreach of believers we have seen into a concise principle and write it in the space provided above.

9. How might this lesson impact you or your family? Your time? Your talent? Your treasure?

10. How would you seek to help another apply this principle in his or her life?

The Beauty of the Bride (Christ's Church)

Principle:

1 Corinthians 12:20-26, Ephesians 2:19, Ephesians 4:11-14, 1 Timothy 3:5, Titus 2:1-8, Hebrews 10:24-25

1. What do the passages above tell us regarding the design of the local church? What is the local church compared to and why?

2. What implications for our involvement in the church might arise from understanding that Scriptures teach that the local church is a family of families? How do you see youth, singles, college students, married couples, and families fitting into this design?

3. What kind of commitment should we show to one another within the local church? What might that look like in this day and age?

4. Read the following passages and describe the relationship that local churches had <u>with each other</u> in the New Testament (Acts 15; 2 Corinthians 8; Colossians 4:5-17, Romans 16:1-20).

5. In light of this study, what are some of the implications for those who are unattached, either by only showing up on Sunday mornings or not attending any gatherings at all?

6. How would you summarize your conclusions from these passages into a principle provided in the space above?

7. How does this principle connect with you at a heart or emotional level?

8. How would you communicate this to someone who is not plugged in to a church?

9. How is God speaking to your heart? What will be different in your life and your commitment to the local church as a result of this study?

Leadership in Christ's Church

Principle:

Acts 14:23, Acts 20:28-29, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 1 Timothy 5:19, Titus 1:5-9, Hebrews 13:17

1. In Acts 14:23 and Titus 1:5, there is a biblical pattern for leadership established. What is it? Why might God have designed His church to operate under this pattern of leadership?

2. According to Acts 20:28-29 and Hebrews 13:17, what kind of responsibility do elders have? Where does that responsibility come from? What might be some of the implications in the church today? (For example: what if someone in the body doesn't understand the pastor's responsibility and isn't open to being shepherded?)

3. 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 list God's qualifications for those who are to be pastors/elders/ overseers. Why are these important? How might these qualifications affect the process of bringing a new pastor/elder onto the church board? Why? 4. In light of the qualifications for pastors in 1 Timothy 3 & Titus 1, why does God entrust the pastors with the primary responsibility for equipping the saints for maturity (Note: Ephesians 4:11-13)? What are the implications?

5. What do 1 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy 5:19 and Hebrews 13:17 tell us about our responses to God ordained leadership? Why would God call the church family to respond this way? Why might be some of the implications of this in the church today?

6. Why might God's design for biblical leadership in the church be difficult for many today?

7. How might a person's past relationships and experiences (i.e. human father influence how they might relate to God's gracious provision of elders?

8. How has this study influenced your thinking and living?

9. What might be helpful for Christians who wrestle with authority to understand in experiencing God's design of pastoral leadership?

10. How would you share this with another person who is lost? Saved?

11. How would you summarize this lesson in a one-sentence principle? Write your principle in the space provided above.

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Spiritual Gifts: Yesterday and Today

Principle:

Background	Speaking in Tongues	Baptism of the Holy Spirit
Ephesians 2:19-20	Acts 2:4, 10:46, 19:6	Acts 8:4-17
Jude 3, 17	1 Corinthians 12	Ephesians 4:4-5
Acts 2:43, 14:3	1 Corinthians 14	Romans 8:9
2 Corinthians 12:12		1 Corinthians 3:16
Hebrews 2:3-4		1 Corinthians 12:12-13

1. Ephesians 2:19-20 refers to the apostles as being the "foundation" of the church? Why was their role so important in the establishment of the early church? How do the verses in Jude contribute to this idea?

 According to Acts 2:43 and 14:3, 2 Corinthians 12:12, and Hebrews 2:3-4 what is the connection between the role of the apostles and the abundance of super-natural or "sign" gifts in the early church? How might this help us understand the role these gifts should play in the church today?

3. What role does the book of Acts play in relation to the entire New Testament? What is the book of Acts about? How is it different than the gospels that precede it and the letters that follow?

4. What was the context for each occurrence of tongues recorded in the book of Acts? Why is the context important for understanding this issue?

5. Based on your answer to the previous question and according to 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11;14:20-25, what is biblical tongues and how do you see its role in the church today?

6. You may meet someone who asks if you have been "baptized in the Spirit" or if you have received "the second baptism?" The implication is that at some point after salvation the Holy Spirit comes into a believer to empower them for ministry and fruitful service. Typically, it is said that this baptism will be evidenced by speaking in tongues or other supernatural, outward signs, and they would point to Acts 8:4-17 as an example in scripture.

What do Ephesians 4, Romans 8:9 and the passages in 1 Corinthians have to say regarding this idea? When does a person receive the Holy Spirit?

Are the events in Acts 8 meant to describe the way it will happen for all people? If not, how are we to understand these events? Why did they receive the Holy Spirit later?

According to 1 Corinthians 12:27-31, does someone have to speak in tongues to be saved?

7. How would you summarize these passages into one or two short principles (respond in the space provided above)?

Spiritual Gifts in the Church

Principle:

Romans 12:3-8, 1 Corinthians 12, 1 Peter 4:10-11

1. Write down as many observations about spiritual gifts from these passages as you can.

2. What do 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 and 1 Peter 4:10-11 tell us concerning the origin, purpose, and exercise of spiritual gifts?

3. What are the ramifications for you personally if you are not using your gifts to serve in the church? What are the ramifications for the church if you are not using your gifts to serve?

4 Do you think the gifts listed in these passages are meant to be exhaustive? In other words, are these the only spiritual gifts a person might have?

5. How does a person discover their spiritual gifts?

6. What do you think your spiritual gifts might be?

7. How do you hope to grow in using your gifts?

8. Summarize this assignment into a short principle statement and write it in the space above.

Church Discipline and Restoration

Principle:

Matthew 7:1-5, Matthew 18:15-20, Romans 16:17, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, Galatians 6:1-2 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15, 2 Timothy 2:24-25, Titus 3:9-11, Hebrews 12:4-17

1. What do the above verses tell us regarding the church family's responsibility to a professing believer who is ensnared by sin and is unrepentant?

2. Summarize the process that is described in Matthew 18:15-20.

3. According to 1 Corinthians 5:1-12, Galatians 6:1, and 2 Timothy 2:24-26, what is the purpose of this process of pursuing an unrepentant believer? How will this process accomplish these purposes?

4. How do you think the average person responds to this emotionally when they first understand it from God's Word? Why?

5. What kind of unrepentant sins should be pursued? How does this biblical truth fit with Matthew 7:1-5? How would God have you respond to a believer who sins before you in their attitude, action, or mouth?

6. How might the principles from the assignments on "The Word" and "The Church" relate to this topic? (Hint: remember we are a "family of families.")

7. How does this biblical teaching fit in with our culture's perspective of "Whatever makes you happy?" What are the ramifications when considering that we want to grow the church by reaching those without the Savior (consider 1 Cor. 5:12-13)?

8. How might this teaching be implemented within our own church family? What if people don't respond well and simply leave and go to another church in the area?

9. How does this teaching impact your life?

10. Summarize this biblical teaching into a short principle statement and write it in the space above.

Complementary Design of Men and Women

Principle:

Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 2:7-25 Genesis 3:1-19

Galatians 3:28-29, Ephesians 5:21-33, 1 Peter 3:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:9-15, 1 Corinthians 11:1-11, Titus 2:1-8

1. What do we learn from the creation account (Genesis 1-2) about the created difference between men and women? According to these passages, what are the differences, and why did He create them to be different?

2. Why is it important to realize that these differences were there by God's design before the fall of man (Gen. 3)?

3. Why is it a potentially explosive topic in our society to speak of men and women as having different "roles?" How are we to understand Galatians 3:28-29? What is the point of the passage?

4. How does a person's background and upbringing factor into obedience in this area?

5. According to Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3, what are the roles God assigns to man and woman in the context of marriage? How do these roles reflect God's created design (Genesis 2:7-25)?

6. According to 1 Timothy 2:9-15, 1 Corinthians 11:1-11 and Titus 2:1-8, how is His design for men and women to be manifested in the church (the "Family of Families")?

7. What might it look like to try and honor God's design as we live in society?

8. As a church family that is committed to reaching people who don't know Christ, why is this so important? What are some practical things we can do to facilitate God's creative design?

9. How would you summarize your findings in a principle in the space provided above?

10. How does this principle intersect your life? What are some practical steps you can take to implement these truths?

Part 2 Ministry Distinctives

Part 1 of Crossway's DNA Study deals with those Biblical Distinctives that align us with many local churches but also set us apart graciously from others. These are biblical and theological convictions that guide us for life and ministry.

Next we turn to eight more studies that form what is distinctive about the specific ways we seek to function as churches on mission for the glory of God. These studies are designed to help Christians discover and embrace this common ministry philosophy firsthand as well as preserve and advance the heart of it as the movement grows by God's grace.

The following study format provides a cross section of Biblical references that will again require prayerful reflection and investigation within a given context. As you study these passages in context, answer the questions or complete the exercises as requested and give the accompanying scripture references. Always feel free to bring in other passages that will bring clarity as well.

Commitment to the Glory of God

Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 40:6-8, 12-17, 21-26; 46:9-10; 51:6-7;

Psalm 8; Romans 11:33-36; 1 Corinthians 3:18-23; 10:31

1. What do these verses tell us about the *glory of God* in contrast to the glory of man?

2. What difference should this contrast make in how we do ministry?

3. How should churches evaluate success in ministry?

4. What difference should a commitment to the glory of God have on worship in music and song?

5. What difference will a commitment to the glory of God make in deciding to teach or not to teach on unpopular subjects that will offend some who may be in the congregation?

6. What impact will a commitment to the glory of God have on our specific methods in ministry? Do the ends justify the means? Why or why not?

Centrality of the Gospel

Romans 1:16-17; 5:1-2, 6-11; 8:28-38; 1 Corinthians 1:18-30, 15:1-5

1. What do you feel are the primary or vital elements to the gospel message and why?

2. How would you respond to a church-hopper, who is visiting your church, who says, "Maybe you should lighten up on your gospel message? It comes across offensive!"

3. Why must the gospel be central to all ministries, for both the believer and the unbeliever?

4. How would you respond to the question, "Why is it so important to preach the gospel continually and clearly when our churches are filled with people who are already saved?"

5. What are some practical steps to take and practices that you as an individual and church leadership can have that will keep the gospel central?
Conversion Growth

Matthew 4:19; 28:18-20; Luke 19:10; John 17:18; Acts 2:39-41;

1 Corinthians 9:19-22; 2 Corinthians 5:18-22; Colossians 1:3-6, 1 Thessalonians 1:8

1. What does the Bible teach regarding the growth of churches that comes from the conversion of the lost to Christ (*conversion growth*)? Why do you think this is?

2. What factors do you believe lead to conversions within a church? Why?

3. What are some steps that a church can take that is not seeing conversions through their ministry?

4. How do pastors' lives impact a church's commitment to reach out to lost people?

5. Are there ever seasons when a church may not see conversions? Why or why not?

6. Why might a church plant see more conversion growth than more established churches?

7. What might the leadership of more established churches do to either maintain or see more conversion growth?

Engagement of Culture

Matthew 4:19; 5:16; 28:18-20; 1 Corinthians 9:19-22; Colossians 4:5-6; 1 Peter 1:13-16

1. How should Christians view their culture? (Good, bad, neutral?)

2. Why are believers called to engage their world around them with the gospel message?

3. What are some practical ways we can do this?

4. What are some cautions we should consider as we *engage the culture*? Why should we be vigilant about these concerns?

5. What are some threats to a church maintaining its mission or developing a missional mentality in the first place?

6. How can the church more readily equip believers to be on mission?

Expository Preaching

Ezra 7:9-10; 1 Timothy 3:15; 2 Timothy 4:1-6; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23-25; 2:1-2

1. Within the Crossway Movement, we understand expository preaching to be taking the main point of a given passage, making it the main point of the message, and applying it practically in life.

What are the benefits of this approach to the Bible compared to a more common topical approach?

2. What might be some of the greatest challenges to expository teaching as a primary pattern in corporate worship?

3. What do the above passages tell us about the power and impact of the Word of God?

4. How would you respond to the comment that the Bible was never intended to be primarily *informational*, but *transformational*?

5. Why might *expository preaching* be the best means of securing the greatest growth in the life of the believer long term?

6. Can one preach a topical series with an expository approach? If so, how? Why might this be important?

Genuine and Relevant Worship Music

God-focused - Hebrews 2:12; Psalm 9:2; 95:1; 150:1-6 Christ exalting/gospel loving - 1 Corinthians 15:1-5; Revelation 5:6-10 Joyous and thankful response to God - Psalm 73:23; 100:1-2; Romans 15:9 Grounded in biblical truth - John 4:24; Philippians 4:8 Engages the heart (spirit) - John 4:23-24; 1 Corinthians 14:15 Empowered by God the Spirit - Ephesians 5:18-20 Culturally Relevant (comprehendible) - 1 Corinthians 14:19, 23-25 Orderly - 2 Chronicles 29:25; 1 Corinthians 14:33 Stimulating worship as a way of life - Mt. 26:30; Acts 16:25; Eph. 5:19; Ja. 5:13 Other-centered (not self-centered) - Philippians 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 12:7; 14:26 Lead by gifted leaders - Psalm 5:1; 1 Corinthians 14:33

1. Why do you think worship in song should be a significant point of focus in the lives of God's people?

2. How important is style to the corporate worship experience? In your answer please include your own definition of "style."

3. How would you contrast God-centered worship with man-centered worship in song?

4. How important are "feelings" to our corporate worship experience? Please give specific reasons for your answer.

5. Why might it be difficult to cultivate a biblical perspective on worship with those who you are leading to Jesus? What makes it easier?

6. If you are a church leader, how might you help your worship team and body embrace genuine and relevant worship music as part of your corporate experience? How can you contribute if you are NOT a church leader?

Biblical Community

John 13:34-35; 17:13-21; Acts 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 5:5-6; 12:12-31;

Ephesians 2:19, 4:25-32; 1 Timothy 3:5; James 5:16; Hebrews 3:13-14; 10:19-25

1. How does the Bible describe relationships within the body of Christ?

2. How does *biblical community* contrast to our culture's concept of community?

3. Why do so few experience genuine biblical community?

4. Why might it be easier for a church plant to experience biblical community than a larger size church?

5. What are some things that might help people begin to experience *biblical community*?

6. What are some real obstacles or hindrances to *biblical community*?

7. What should pastors and deacons do to help facilitate biblical community and why?

8. What are some examples that you have seen of genuine *biblical community*?

9. Can a believer ever genuinely experience biblical community apart from mission? (reconsider assignment #3, Conversion Growth, and #4, Engaging Culture).

Plurality in Leadership

Acts 1:15; 14:23; 15:13-22; 20:28-29; Galatians 2:9; Ephesians 4:11-13; Philippians 1:11;

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1 Timothy 3; 5:19; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-4

1. Do you think most churches are committed to biblical plurality? Why or why not?

2. How do you think our culture impacts our commitment to and application of plurality in leadership in a church?

3. How might the humility and maturity of emerging leaders in a young church plant influence a long term foundational commitment to plurality in leadership?

4. Why do you think the apostle Paul says, "Do not lay hands upon anyone hastily and thereby share the sins of others...? (1 Timothy 5:22)

5. Describe your own personal commitment to biblical plurality and how you believe leaders should live it out practically.

6. Why would it be important for these men to be mutually accountable to one another in love, while functioning within their given areas of leadership, giftedness, and emphasis?

Note: The character of leaders and how they function together practically is also more thoroughly developed in the following Leadership Culture section of Crossway's DNA Curriculum.

Part 3 Leadership Culture

Each church in the Crossway Chapel movement is committed to creating a leadership culture that reflects the following seven values. Humility, character, glory to God, plurality, unity, empowerment, and multiplication.

As with the previous studies in DNA, each value comes with a cross section of Biblical references that will require prayerful reflection and investigation within a given context. As you study these passages in context, answer the questions or complete the exercises as requested and give the accompanying scripture references. Always feel free to bring in other passages that will bring clarity as well.

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Humility

Mark 10:41-45; John 3:30; 15:5; Romans 12:3, 10, 16;

1 Corinthians 3:1-7; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Philippians 2:1-4; 1 Peter 2:21-23, 3:9, 5:1-4

1. Why do you think Jesus places such an emphasis on humility?

2. Why might it be difficult to genuinely develop humility in our lives?

3. What are some specific ways in which humility will manifest itself in our leadership culture? In our churches? In our regions? In the Crossway movement as a whole?

4. How should this impact how leaders within Crossway hold one another accountable?

5. Within the movement, "As leaders, we need to have freedom to speak into one another's lives" and at the same time cultivate "an environment of grace." How might these phrases be harmonized?

6. How have you seen leaders within the Crossway Movement exhibit humility?

7. What are some specific examples of critical input you have received? Constructive input? How did you respond to each? What can we learn from the above passages concerning unfair and/or ungracious input or criticism?

8. What are some specific ways besides just saying that you are "always open" that you can present yourself as a "learner" with an openness to input into your life from others? How else can you practically grow in humility?

Character

1 Corinthians 11:1; Ephesians 5:7-10; 1 Timothy 1:5, 19; 3:1-16; 4:6-9, 16; 2 Timothy 2:20-26; Titus 1:5-11

1. Why is character important for a spiritual leader?

2. Some have said it is the most important. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

3. What might be some downsides of prematurely elevating an individual to leadership?

4. How does one manage the concern for premature elevation of an individual to leadership and at the same time cultivate an environment of empowerment (equipping and unleashing)?

5. Why are many people elevated to lead before they are ready?

6. Is character that important, as long as the person has the "package" or "goods" (charismatic, attractive, gifted, winsome and popular)?

7. What might be some tensions of holding this as a high value within a leadership culture? Stifling, controlling or legalistic?

8. How might we grow in our "blind spots" (growth areas where we are not as self-aware)? How does living in community factor?

9. What are you tempted to do when God brings light on a growth area in your life? How do you combat that temptation?

10. What are some recent personal examples of your responding to criticism or constructive input into your character?

11. What is one area in your life that you want prayer for God to grow your character?

John 3:30; 1 Corinthians 3:1-7; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Colossians 3:23; Hebrews 1:2; Revelation 5:11-14

1. How might this value of "God-Glorifying" manifest itself within the Crossway leadership culture? How might the phrase, "we live and serve before an audience of One" fit? Why is this important?

2. How might this look in contrast to more man-centered or man-glorifying ministry?

3. Why might it be difficult to maintain a God-glorifying leadership culture? What might be some challenges? Obstacles?

4. What are some examples of God-glorifying leadership?

5. How do these two statements fit with the value of giving all glory to God?*"Not concerned with who gets the credit as long as God gets the glory."*

"No one person irreplaceable"

6. What are examples in your life when you have been tempted to grab the spotlight that is reserved for God alone?

7. How might you grow in your leadership to be more God-glorifying?

8. How and why should you mentor others in God-glorifying ministry and leadership?

Plurality

Acts 1:15;14:23; 15:13-22; 20:28-29; Galatians 2:9; Ephesians 4:11-13; Philippians 1:11;

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1 Timothy 5:19; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-4

1. What do the Scriptures teach regarding the number of leaders (apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers) on a local church board? What are the implications?

2. Why do you think God established a plurality on a governing board?

3. What might be some downsides about a failure to function in plurality as leaders?

 Does plurality mean sameness or are they differing functions or giftedness among leaders? (Acts 1:15; 15:13-22; Galatians 2:9; Ephesians 4:11-13) 5. What do you see as necessary character qualities and skills to function within a plurality of leaders on a church board?

6. Where do you need to grow to function more readily within a plurality of God's people? What about as an emerging leader?

7. How specifically do you need to pray that you might function more in plurality with God's people?

Philippians 2:1-4; Acts 10, 13:1-4; 15; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a; Ephesians 4:1-3, 29, 32; Romans 12:10

1. Why do you think unity is an important value among Crossway leadership? Specifically, why is it so vital for functioning in God glorifying plurality at the church, regional, and movement levels? Can you give specific illustrations or examples where it would be important?

2. What happens when there is a difference of opinion among leadership board? How should they progress forward?

3. What does true unanimity mean among a group of leaders on the board? How might humility and character factor into this question? How should leaders prefer one another in honor?

4. Can you think of examples when you have differed with other Christians and in a healthy manner you processed through the differences toward unity? Please specify.

5. How do the preceding character qualities in Crossway's Leadership culture factor into unity?

6. How do you feel unity puts God on display?

7. How specifically do you need to pray that you might serve more in biblical unity?

Empowerment

John 15:5, 16; Acts 8:1-4; 13:1-4; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11;

2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Ephesians 2:10; 4:11-13; 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Peter 2:9-10

1. Why is it important for every believer and particularly for leaders to see themselves called by God into service?

2. Why might it be important to assume God has a calling upon emerging leaders within the church family?

3. The Crossway movement seeks to cultivate a "can-do-mentality" versus "not called" or "not gifted enough." How might you contrast the two mentalities within a church that is developing leaders?

4. What might leaders do to create a strong climate of empowerment?

5. How does prayer and fasting factor into empowering leaders?

6. How might our commitment to leadership teams with varieties of giftedness (apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers – Ephesians 4:11-12) factor into this discussion?

7. How would you see this value intersect the Crossway Movement's commitment to church planting?

8. How might you balance a current need for people in certain roles and unleashing people into their areas of passion and giftedness?

9. How might you be more readily raised up or prepared in your area of passion or giftedness?

Multiplication

Exodus 18:17-27; Joshua 1:1-9; 2 Kings 2:19; Matthew 4:18-22; 28:18-20;

Mark 3: 14; Acts 15:36-41; 20:17-24; 1 Thessalonians 2:3-8; 2 Timothy 2:2

1. What does the pattern we see in the Old Testament passages tell us of the need for mentoring and discipline?

2. How do we see Jesus continue this model with the twelve? What observations can you make about Jesus' relationship with the twelve?

3. When comparing the gospels, who did Jesus invest most of His time in? Why? What can we learn from Jesus' examples with the twelve?

4. How do we see Paul continue this investment in a relative few? Why?

5. How does that fit with all the demands on a church leader for his or her time?

6. Why is this important to a church that is a "community on mission?"

7. What are some examples of those who have multiplied their lives into yours for the Jesus & His gospel?

8. How can you personally grow as a multiplier? What are some practical steps you can begin to take today?



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