

Breaking Church Growth Barriers

Barrier Breaking Leaders

Churches grow until the cost gets too high.
When the cost is too expensive, churches stop growing.

There are three types of leaders ...

1. _____. Those who never dream big things for God.
2. _____. Those who dream big things for God, but seldom see them happen.
3. _____. Those who dream big things for God and see them become reality.

Leaders in category 1, *foggy*, usually are full of one of the three “R’s.”

- _____. They tend to repeat the past.
- _____. They tend to imitate the successes of others.
- _____. They often redefine failure as success.

Leaders in category 2, *frustrated*, usually are full of one of the four “E’s.”

- _____. They are tired, like the disciples who fished all night, but caught nothing.
- _____. They give reasons why churches aren’t growing.
- _____. They are jealous of others whose churches are growing.
- _____. They are like Zacchaeus, who didn’t want to miss out.

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Churches grow until the cost gets too high.
When the cost is too expensive, churches stop growing.

There are three types of leaders ...

1. **Foggy**. Those who never dream big things for God. **They cannot see the future. They lack vision. They tend to imitate the successes of the past. But often what makes one successful in the past will ensure the failure in the future that is ever changing.**
2. **Frustrated**. Those who dream big things for God, but seldom see them happen. **They are able to see the future, but lack the strategic planning skills to develop a roadmap to get there. They experience many false starts with high hopes, only to be repeatedly disappointed.**
3. **Fulfilled**. Those who dream big things for God and see them become reality. **They possess vision, skills, and organizational abilities to motivate and inspire others to help bring a vision to reality. Their successes lead to even more in the future.**

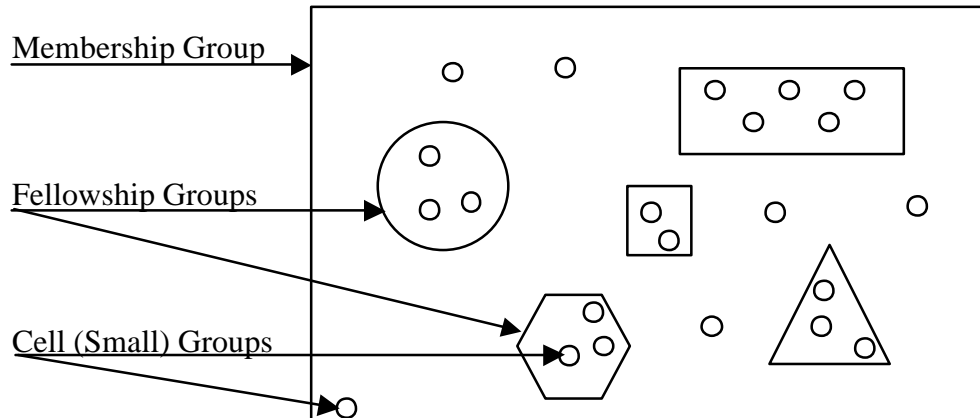
Leaders in category 1, *foggy*, usually are full of one of the three “R’s.”

- **Repetition**. They tend to repeat the past. **They tend to do the same things year after year, hoping for different results. They are often passive instead of active in their approach to ministry. They don’t have 20 years of experience; they have one year of experience 20 times.**
- **Replication**. They tend to imitate the successes of others. **They usually cannot think reflectively, but will tend to imitate what they see other successful leaders do. They will often try to fit a “square” ministry peg into the “round” church. It just doesn’t work. Failing at what others have succeeded in doing lowers their self-esteem even more.**
- **Redefinition**. They often redefine failure as success. **They lower the bar of success into the mass of mediocrity. Unable to achieve significance, they redefine mediocrity as excellence. Like the man who kept returning to the refrigerator looking for something to eat. When his wife said, “Honey, that is the fifth time you’ve looked into the refrigerator for something to eat. Nothing has changed.” He said, “I know, but I’ve lowered my expectations.”**

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Structures and Groups

Three Levels of Church Structure



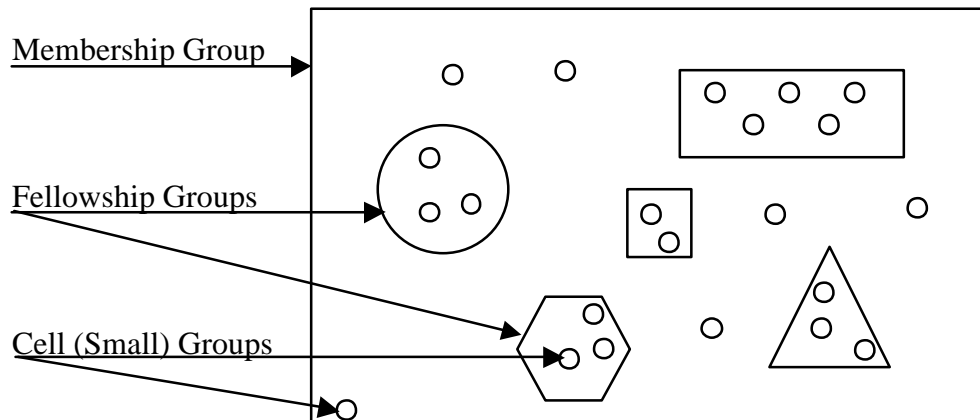
Church Structure Defined by Groups

1. The membership group can take up to 750,000 or more, and meets for the purpose of _____ and worship.
 - The primary function of the membership group is _____.
 - The secondary functions of the membership group are mutual _____ and specialized services.
2. The fellowship group can take approximately 35 to 80, and meets for the purpose of _____ and belonging.
 - The primary function of the fellowship group is _____.
 - The secondary functions of the fellowship group are Bible study and Christian _____.
3. The cell group can take approximately 8 to 12, and meets for the purpose of spiritual growth and _____.

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Structures and Groups

Three Levels of Church Structure



Church Structure Defined by Groups

1. The membership group can take up to 750,000 or more, and meets for the purpose of **celebration** and worship.
 - The primary function of the membership group is **worship**.
 - The secondary functions of the membership group are mutual **identity** and specialized services. **Such services may include counseling, youth and children's programs, Bible study, entertainment, etc.**
2. The fellowship group can take approximately 35 to 80, and meets for the purpose of **community** and belonging.
 - The primary function of the fellowship group is **social**. **This structure will stand or fall, not on the value of a Bible study, but on the strength of social fellowship.**
 - The secondary functions of the fellowship group are Bible study and Christian **growth**. **These groups may take on special ministry tasks that bond them together, seek to help them understand their spiritual gifts, and provide intentional pastoral care to their own. Sunday School classes are examples of this group.**