

# Critical Understanding



**An Invitation to join us in our pursuit  
of Jesus**



# Critical Understanding

## 1. God Designed the Church

- created to have relationship with God
- Sin caused separation
- God is redeeming his people & creation

### a) Jesus on the Church and it's Mission

“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Matt 16:18

46 EVERY DAY THEY CONTINUED TO MEET TOGETHER IN THE TEMPLE COURTS. THEY BROKE BREAD  
HOMES AND ATE TOGETHER WITH GLAD AND SINGING HEARTS, LAUDING GOD AND ENJOYING  
FAVOR OF ALL THE PEOPLE. AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAILY THOSE WHO WERE  
SAVED.



# Critical Understanding

Matthew 28:18-20

“<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

46 EVERY DAY THEY CONTINUED TO MEET TOGETHER IN THE TEMPLE COURTS. THEY BROKE BREAD AT HOMES AND ATE TOGETHER WITH GLAD AND SINGLE HEARTS, PRAISING GOD AND ENJOYING THE FAVOR OF ALL THE PEOPLE. AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAILY THOSE WHO WERE SAVED.



# Critical Understanding

## d) Word Pictures of the Church

### **Bride of Christ – Eph. 5:23-27**

“<sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her”

46 EVERY DAY THEY CONTINUED TO MEET TOGETHER IN THE TEMPLE COURTS. THEY BROKE BREAD AT HOMES AND ATE TOGETHER WITH GLAD AND SINGLE HEARTS, PRAISING GOD AND ENJOYING HIS FAVOR OF ALL THE PEOPLE. AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAILY THOSE WHO WERE SAVED.



# Critical Understanding

“<sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,  
<sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.”

- holy, clean, radiant, perfect, blameless a glowing witness

- see Rev. 19, 21 – returning for Bride

46 EVERY DAY THEY CONTINUED TO MEET TOGETHER IN THE TEMPLE COURTS. THEY BROKE BREAD AT HOMES AND ATE TOGETHER WITH GLAD AND SINCERE HEARTS, PRAISING GOD AND ENJOYING HIS FAVOR OF ALL THE PEOPLE. AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAILY THOSE WHO WERE SAVED.



# Critical Understanding

## Family of God – Gal. 4:4-7

“<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.”

- children, Father, family – language of N.T.



# Critical Understanding

- clear on family values Col. 3:12-17

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,<sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.<sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.<sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which

46 EVERY DAY THEY CONTINUED TO MEET TOGETHER IN THE COURTS. THEY BROKE BREAD AT HOMES AND ATE TOGETHER WITH GLAD AND SINGLE HEARTS, PRAISING GOD AND ENJOYING THE FAVOR OF ALL THE PEOPLE. AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAILY THOSE WHO WERE BEING SAVED.



# Critical Understanding

indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

46 EVERY DAY THEY CONTINUED TO MEET TOGETHER IN THE TEMPLE COURTS. THEY BROKE BREAD AT HOMES AND ATE TOGETHER WITH GLAD AND SINGLE HEARTS, PRAISING GOD AND ENJOYING HIS FAVOR OF ALL THE PEOPLE. AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAILY THOSE WHO WERE SAVED.



# Critical Understanding

## **Body of Christ** Romans 12:4-8

“<sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup> Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> the one

46 EVERY DAY THEY CONTINUED TO MEET TOGETHER IN THE TEMPLE COURTS. THEY BROKE BREAD AT HOMES AND ATE TOGETHER WITH GLAD AND SINCERE HEARTS, PRAISING GOD AND ENJOYING HIS FAVOR OF ALL THE PEOPLE. AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAILY THOSE WHO WERE SAVED.



# Critical Understanding

who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”

- designed to need each other for the body to function

*1 Cor 12ff* – “<sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”



# Critical Understanding

## 2. God Designed Roles – Eph.4:11-16

“<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

46 EVERY DAY THEY CONTINUED TO MEET TOGETHER IN THE TEMPLE COURTS. THEY BROKE BREAD AT HOMES AND ATE TOGETHER WITH GLAD AND SINCERE HEARTS, PRAISING GOD AND ENJOYING HIS FAVOR OF ALL THE PEOPLE. AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAILY THOSE WHO WERE SAVED.



# Critical Understanding

<sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”



# Critical Understanding

a) those called to equip

b) gifts used .....

- for the work – Eph. 2:10
- for building up
- for unity
- for maturity – grounded into Christ

c) all gifts matter – Rom. 12:4, 1 Cor. 12

46 EVERY DAY THEY CONTINUED TO MEET TOGETHER IN THE TEMPLE COURTS. THEY BROKE BREAD  
HOMES AND ATE TOGETHER WITH GLAD AND SINGING HEARTS, PRAISING GOD AND ENJOYING  
FAVOR OF ALL THE PEOPLE. AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAILY THOSE WHO WERE  
SAVED.



# Critical Understanding

## d) Witness to the World

- ambassadors - 2 Cor. 5:18-21
- light to the world – Matt. 5:14
- clear evidence of God's love – John 15
- witness to the world – Rom. 10:14-17

## e) Returning for His Bride

- Rev. 19, 21

46 EVERY DAY THEY CONTINUED TO MEET TOGETHER IN THE TEMPLE COURTS. THEY BROKE BREAD AT HOMES AND ATE TOGETHER WITH GLAD AND SINGLE HEARTS, PRAISING GOD AND ENJOYING HIS FAVOR OF ALL THE PEOPLE. AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAILY THOSE WHO WERE SAVED.



# Critical Understanding

## 3. God Designed Rhythms

### a) Sabbath - Exodus 20:8-11

<sup>8</sup> “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”



# Critical Understanding

b) Gathering

c) Life in Community

Galatians 6:9-10 “<sup>9</sup> And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

46 EVERY DAY THEY CONTINUED TO MEET TOGETHER IN THE TEMPLE COURTS. THEY BROKE BREAD  
HOMES AND ATE TOGETHER WITH GLAD AND SINGLE HEARTS, PRAISING GOD AND ENJOYING  
FAVOR OF ALL THE PEOPLE. AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAILY THOSE WHO WERE  
SAVED.



# Critical Understanding

## So What?

1. Invitation to be discipled here at Grand Centre Alliance
2. Understand our Priorities
  - teach the word
  - equip the people of God
  - encourage life in community
  - regular renewal & worship



# Critical Understanding

## 3. Next Steps

- attend group connect
- investigate membership
- commit to growth and serving
- set aside priority for the family

46 EVERY DAY THEY CONTINUED TO MEET TOGETHER IN THE TEMPLE COURTS. THEY BROKE BREAD  
HOMES AND ATE TOGETHER WITH GLAD AND SINGING HEARTS, PRAISING GOD AND ENJOYING  
FAVOR OF ALL THE PEOPLE. AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAILY THOSE WHO WERE  
SAVED.



# Critical Understanding



**An Invitation to join us in our pursuit  
of Jesus**