

Advantages Of A Small Group In The Church

Matthew 28:18-20 [NIV] *“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

This final command of Christ to His disciples was to “go”.

Too often rather than going into the world, the church stays put where they meet to worship God.

We expect others to come to us and visit our fellowships to experience the Love of God.

We need to design a strategy for penetrating the world so that our loving fellowship can be seen by the world and make an impact on it.

John 17:15-19 [NIV] *“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.”*

Not part of world but sent by Christ into the world.

Philippians 2:14-16 [Message Bible] *“Do everything readily and cheerfully, no bickering, no second-guessing allowed! Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the Living God. Carry the light-giving message into the night so I’ll have good cause to be proud of you on the day that Christ returns.”*

Paul tells us what will happen in the world when people observe the light we carry into the darkness of this society.

People will be drawn to that glowing example of Christian living, just as a person is drawn to a light when travelling in the dark.

How Can We Do This?

Through small groups that meet in Christian homes in different neighbourhoods.

The true friendship of a small group will be noticed by others in that neighbourhood and will create an atmosphere in which neighbours can safely be invited.

A Small Group Is Mobile, It is Not Bound To A Building

Acts 2:46-47 [Message Bible] *“They followed a daily discipline of worship in the temple [where many people gathered] followed by fellowship meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.”*

These 3,000 newly converted Christians had a massive impact on others as they met in small groups in each others homes.

A Small Group is flexible – it can change readily its procedure and meet the needs of its members or others in its neighbourhood.

A Small Group is inclusive – it is open to all types of people and you are missed if you don't come.

You are not lost in a crowd.

A Small Group is personal – a small group creates a place where our needs and the needs of those who commit themselves to it can be easily met.

Often these needs are met by the rest of the group listening to the person's needs and fears then praying together with them.

Small Groups are risky – being part of a small group puts us on the edge of adventure in our Christian life.

We are exposing our Christian life to the public.

But we discover our true selves and others as we go through trials and conflict together.

We grow in Christian maturity as we truly care for others needs.

Small Groups are an excellent way to evangelise.

The true, loving friendship of a small group will be noticed by others in the neighbourhood, as we bring an example of Christian living to them.

It is not easy to begin a small group strategy into a church, for some it will be too much of a change, but it can work wonders to the church fellowship as a whole.

God is calling us to a great task as a Church.

The Church is **not** a Holy place, it is a Holy people called by God to declare His Love for all the human race.