

The Trellis and the Vine - Chapter 8
Group Week of: November 3, 2024



Instructions:

1. Read the assigned chapter.
2. Answer questions in the handout.
3. Discuss with your life group.

Comprehension

- 1) What are the strengths and weaknesses of the “pastor as service providing clergyman” model? (pgs. 94-96)

- 2) What are the strengths and weaknesses of the “pastor as CEO” model? (pgs. 96-98)

- 3) What does the “pastor as trainer” model seek to do that the other models didn’t do as well? (pgs. 99-102)

- 4) Why are sermons alone insufficient for gospel growth? (pgs. 102-104)

Evaluate

- 1) Reflect on the example of Christ in the gospels. What were the strengths of His ministry?

- 2) What might modern Christianity say is a weakness of Jesus’ ministry? (This would be wrong of course, but in answering the question, we can see where our values may not align with God’s.)

- 3) If the goal of the pastor is to properly balance preaching with training, how do our pastors do with this balance?

- 4) Are we dependent upon the Sunday sermon to initiate growth at West Side? Are we dependent upon the pastoral staff? Are we dependent upon the Spirit? Where has West Side placed its hope, trust, faith for the growth of the body?

Apply

- 1) In what ways have you personally contributed to a consumeristic mentality towards church?

- 2) In what ways have you personally combatted a consumeristic mentality towards church?

- 3) Based on the chapter, do you have any pastoral expectations that may need to change? If so, what are they?

- 4) If the sermon or the pastors alone are insufficient for fulfilling gospel growth, what role do you personally have in cultivating growth at West Side?