

Theme: BRCC is called to glorify God by building and planting local churches that are biblically based, Christ centered, caring communities, seeking to know Christ and make Him known.

I. Intro – Bringing Glory to God

- A. Catechism question 1- God's glory
- B. Catechism question 14 - God's glory, Christ, church
- C. This must be central for all churches - God's glory
- D. Many ways for different churches to do this
- E. We do not have the task of judging other churches
- F. But we must know how WE are called to do this
- G. BRCC's vision & core values - who we are

II. BRCC's Vision

A. Biblically Based

- 1. Note all Scripture in this passage
 - a. vs 6 - Isaiah 28:16
 - b. vs 7 – Psalm 118:22
 - c. vs 8 – Isaiah 8:14
 - d. vs 9 – Exodus 19:5; Isaiah 43:21
 - e. vs 10 – Hosea 1:9-10; 2:23
- 2. Context 1:23-25 - the Word!
 - a. Born again through the Word
 - b. Quotes Isaiah 40:6-8 - enduring Word
 - c. The Word preached

- 3. The call to proclaim the Word
 - a. Ezra 7:10 - study, practice, teach Word
 - b. 1 Timothy 4:13 - devoted to read, preach, teach
 - c. 2 Timothy 4:1-2 - great charge - preach Word
- 4. What it means to be biblically based
 - a. The Scripture is the final rule for faith & practice
 - b. Teaching Scripture is central in our worship
 - c. Teaching Scripture is central to shepherding

B. Christ centered

- 1. Note the central focus on Christ in the passage
 - a. vv4-6 - Christ the Living, Precious Stone
 - b. vv7-8 - Christ - the Rock that divides humanity
- 2. Christ is foundation of Church & focus of Scripture
 - a. Christ is the foundation stone (vv6-7; 1 Cor 3:11)
 - b. Also Head of Body; Shepherd, etc.
 - c. Christ focus of Scripture (Jn 5:39; 2 Tim 3:15)
- 3. What it means to be Christ centered
 - a. Expository preaching, but also Christ centered preaching
 - b. The Church proclaims Christ - not self-help tools
 - c. Worship, preaching, fellowship must be Gospel centric

C. Caring Community

- 1. Note we are being built together - community

- a. Built into a house/temple (1 Peter 2:4-5)
 - b. Joined together, built together (Eph 2:20-22)
2. We need community for support & to live faithfully
- a. Galatians 6:2 - carry each others burdens
 - b. Hebrews 3:13 - encourage; protect
 - c. 1 Peter 2:11 - aliens and strangers need community!
3. What it means to be a caring community
- a. We stress building relationships with one another
 - b. If a local church is not a community it is not really a church!
 - c. We urge everyone to build closely with others
 - d. This is why small groups are a BIG DEAL
4. This type of community limits how big BRCC can grow
- a. There are advantages to growing big
 - b. Very hard for community can not happen in large churches
 - c. This is why we will plant rather than getting large
- D. Seeking to know Christ and make Him known
1. God's people - praising Him to others! (1 Peter 2:9)
 2. This is how BRCC seeks to know God
 - a. Biblically based - we teach Scripture
 - b. Christ centered - we focus on Christ, Gospel
 - c. Caring community - we build together
 3. From this base, we praise Him to others
 - a. Are you experiencing God's amazing grace - share it!

- b. Are you experiencing the joy of Christ - share it!
- c. Are you grateful for the Gospel - gossip it!
- d. God is good to us, among us - invite others

III. Applying the Word - Eucharist

- A. Many names for this meal - each has meaning
- B. As Jer said last week, Eucharist is a great one
- C. Come to the Table thankful for God's Word
- D. Come to the Table full of thanks for Christ & Gospel
- E. Come to the Table thankful for & as a community
- F. Eucharist
- G. Fellowship & benediction

BRCC's Vision and Church Planting

1 Peter 2:4-10
 Micah 4:1-7
 April 17, 2011
 Communion
 Romans 15:5-6

Q 1: Why did God create humans?

To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

Q 14: What is the central message of the Bible?

The central message of the Bible is that God is bringing glory to Himself through the Person and work of Jesus Christ as He creates and redeems a people who will glorify and enjoy Him forever.

23 For **you have been born again**, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, **through the living and enduring word of God**. 24 For, “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord stands forever.” **And this is the word that was preached to you**. 1 Peter 1:23–25 (quoting Isaiah 40:6-8)

For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel. Ezra 7:10

Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. 1 Timothy 4:13

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage— with great patience and careful instruction. 2 Timothy 4:1–2

11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:11

39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, John 5:39

15 from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:15

20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Ephesians 2:20–22

2 Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. Hebrews 3:13