



**Digging Deeper ::**  
**Planting the "SIMPLE**  
**ESSENCE"**  
**of the Body of Christ...**  
**The Church**  
**in every overlooked**  
**relationship group**

# Elemental Basics of the Body of Christ

*Definition of Church: "A group of Christ-followers who fully function, believe, and understand themselves to be the Body of Christ in their sphere of influence."*

1. Supportive Friendships
2. Authentic Worship
3. Obedience-based Discipleship
4. Life-involvement Evangelism
5. Servanthood Caring

*“If a group of Christ-followers is doing everything a church is supposed to do, why not call it a church?”*

Consider using this slideshow as the basis for a group dialogue among a few Christian friends who want to be part of a **grassroots revolution that naturally touches and transforms** the unreached lives in their own daily traffic-patterns!

Ask **God's Spirit to guide** each dialogue... whether you view it all at once, or break it up into multiple share times. As you talk together consider questions such as:

1. Are there groups of friends or daily relationships that come to mind as I ponder these ideas?
2. Has God's Spirit made me hungry to be a part of something like this?
3. How would I reshape one of these ideas for the group God has put on my heart?
4. What's holding me back from taking the first step?
5. Who might partner with me in praying about this for the next 30 days?



Being the  
**Body-of-Christ On-Site:**  
How to begin

# Micro-clusters of Christ-followers

(and their unreached network  
of relationships)

can become a **life changing,**

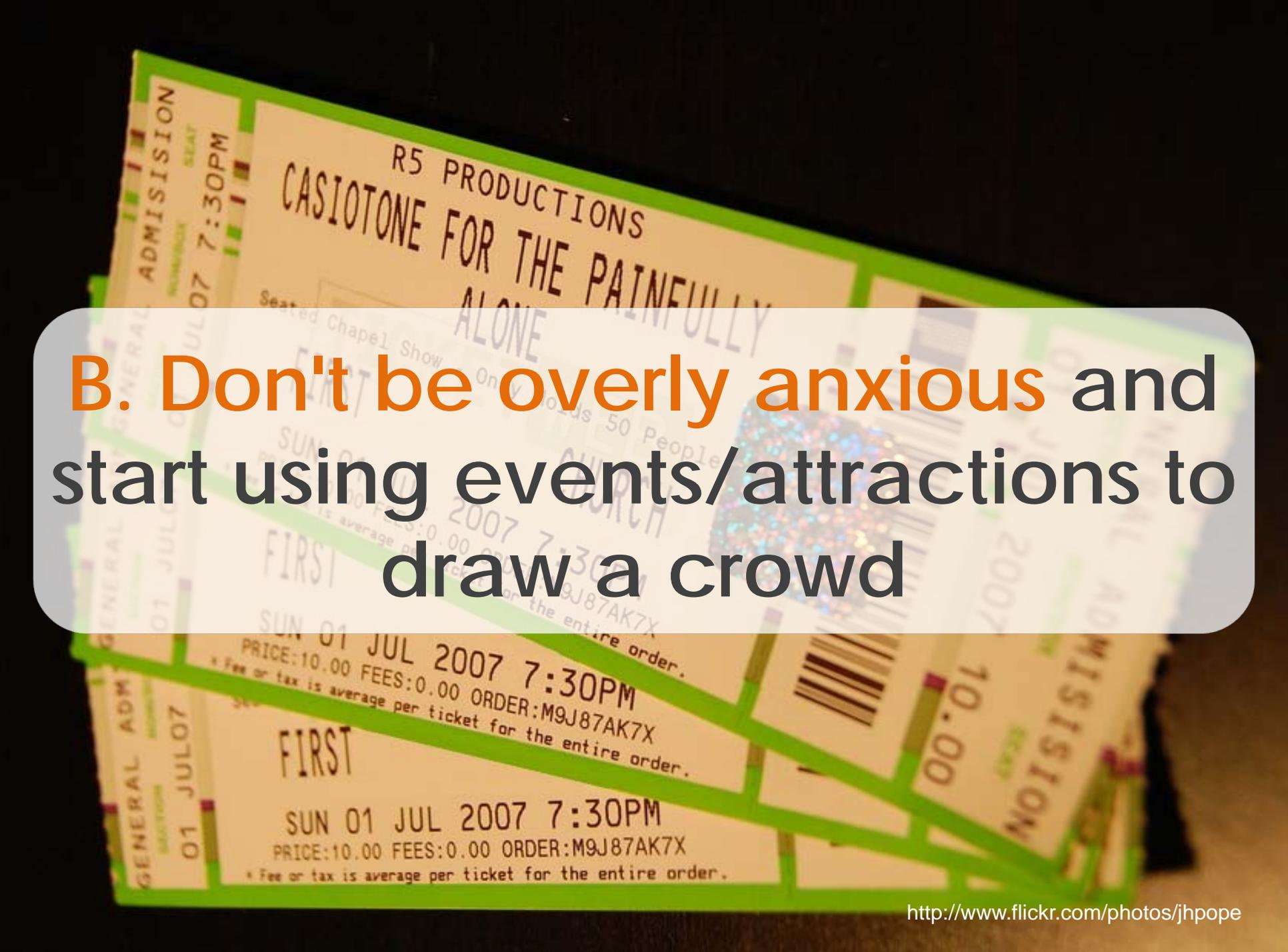
*“where-they-live”*

**Body-of-Christ!**

A. Ask God to **arrange encounters** between you and the **friends, acquaintances and strangers** in whom He has been stirring up a deep spiritual yearning.

Keep praying and sharing your ideas about an on-site Body of Christ with **whomever He brings your way** until some are ready to journey with you in this church... **it only takes a few.**

**Trust His Spirit to connect you**  
to the right ones, and to have  
their hearts open. Some may  
not yet be Christians.



**B. Don't be overly anxious and start using events/attractions to draw a crowd**

Just pray, seek encounters,  
and wait on HIM to connect  
you to the  
**God-ready persons!**



**C. Gather at a home,  
apartment, park, café, etc...  
wherever the group will  
participate.**

D. Without using “churchy terms” you can **guide the group** to experience the elemental basics of church life.

E. At every gathering **ask God to continue arranging encounters** between current participants and others in whom He has created a heart hunger for the person of Christ.

**Always be authentic,  
never false,  
in caring for another person.**

**Be sensitive to their needs.**

**Never manipulate.**

**Include and value each one.**

F. Personally pray for God to raise up an “intern” who will work with you and reproduce the church in another group.

G. Also, seek out a **spiritual mentor**, a “Paul,” who will give you on-going wise counsel as you lead this group.

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*“If a group of Christ-followers is doing everything a church is supposed to do, why not call it a church?”*

A group of approximately ten people, including men and women, are seated around a dining table with a green tablecloth. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The table is set with white napkins, wine glasses, and a small menu or card. The background shows a restaurant interior with large windows and a dark leather booth.

**Ideas for living-out the basic functions or rhythms of the Body-of-Christ**

# 1. supportive friendships...

share life concerns and pray for each other (perhaps silently if some prefer).

Also take turns telling

(a) **what the world has been  
dumping on you**

this week, and

(b) **what God has been doing  
in your life.**

**Be there for one another** in the ups and downs of everyday living. Try sharing all this over a simple meal each week.

A group of people are seated around a table in what appears to be a dining area or a church fellowship hall. The table is covered with a dark cloth and has various items on it, including plates of food, white cups, and a woven basket filled with oranges and green apples. The people are engaged in conversation. A semi-transparent white text box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text: 

**2. authentic worship...**  
focus on God's greatness  
using any combination of...

- a. music/guitar/CD/video)
- b. Art
- c. silence/awe
- d. nature
- e. sharing about God's greatness in your life
- f. scripture promises, etc.

### **3. obedience-based discipleship...**

**apply a Bible passage to  
how you live.**

**As a group, dialogue over  
what it says about (a) God,  
(b) self, (c) others, (d) life.**

Pick **practical scriptures** like:  
Psalms, Matt. 5-7, John 8,  
Gal. 6, Philippians, or James.

## 4. life-involvement evangelism...

include not-yet-Christians  
fully and naturally, and allow  
them to hear/see how Christ is  
working in the lives of those  
present.

Nurture everyone toward  
expressing their own  
“journey-with-God” as part of  
the gathering. Let people be  
drawn to God by all they  
experience in the group.

## 5. servanthood caring...

Seek opportunities to help others like Christ would  
(Matt. 25:35-36).

A man wearing a blue t-shirt, a brown bucket hat with sunglasses on top, and a watch is using a red caulk gun to seal the bottom of a window frame. The house has white horizontal siding. The window is partially open, and the man is looking down at his work. A semi-transparent white box with black text is overlaid on the image.

**Do a mission project.**

**Help someone in a life crisis.  
Gather and deliver a box of  
food, clothing, Christmas  
presents, or school supplies to  
a child... you get the idea!**

Take a weekly offering (always let “giving” be an act of worship) and have the group decide on how to use it in meeting someone’s need.

**Let them deliver it.**

**6. Baptize** anyone who puts their faith in Christ as Savior and Lord.

**Anyone** OK'd by the church  
can baptize as part of  
Gathered worship.  
**Any place** is okay.

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# Romans 16 Bible Questions

**Ponder Priscilla and Aquila in  
Romans 16:3-5.**

**How did they make a living?  
(Acts 18:3)**

**Where did their church meet?**

**How big was the room?**

**What was the furniture like?**

**How did they Worship?**

**Disciple others? Evangelize?**

**Do Missions/Ministry?**

**Have Community together?**

**Who gave them permission to  
transform their neighborhood  
by planting a simple but sincere  
church in their home?**

**Who were the leaders?  
Maybe a friend?  
What were the leader's  
preparation/credentials?  
(2 Tim. 2:2)**

**How big did it get?**

**How long did it last?**

**How much good did it  
accomplish?**

**How much did it cost  
financially?**

**What did they do with their  
offerings?**

Obviously we can't know all the answers, but just by **asking** the questions we can see that a very **“basic”** church **made a difference in lives...**

**And we are still  
reading about it!**

**God obviously affirms this form  
of church...**

**He said “greet” the church that  
is in their house, not “delete”  
the church that is in their  
house!**

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MICRO TOOLS & VIDEOS on how-to-begin, available freely at  
[www.coffeehousechurches.com](http://www.coffeehousechurches.com)

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