

A Study In Contrasts

	The New Testament Church	The Traditional Church
LOCATION	Moves from house to house	Meets in church buildings
SIZE OF GROUPS	Small, intimate	Large, impersonal groups
ACTIVITIES	Daily fellowship	Weekly worship services
SUPPORT SYSTEM	Building up one another	Problem? See the pastor
RELATIONSHIPS	Intimate; helping one another	Remote; little transparency
DISCIPLING	Mouth to Ear modeling Personal Values Shaped <i>Focus on living the faith</i>	Classes, notebooks; little modeling Values not shaped <i>Focus on information</i>
PRIMARY TASKS OF LEADERS	Every believer equipped to do The work of the ministry	Directing the "Program Base Design" <i>Church activities</i>
PRAYER LIFE	Hours daily; heavy emphasis	Individual choice; limited
PASTOR'S DUTY	Model the life of a believer	Preach good sermons
EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS	Ministering to others; total Servanthood & Stewardship <i>Serve people directly</i> Fulfills Ephesians 4:11-16	Attendance, tithing, work in the "Programs" <i>Serve the institution, which might serve people through programs</i>
PERSPECTIVE	Cell groups the focal point	Congregation the focal point
KEY WORDS	Go and make disciples	Come grow with us
TEACHINGS	Apply the scriptures to needs and relationships	Subscribe to the distinctive beliefs of this church
SPIRITUAL GIFTS	Regularly exercised by all believers to build up others in the cell group gatherings <i>Known</i>	Either downplayed or often used as a "crowd pleaser" in public services <i>Unknown</i>
COMMITMENT	To increase the Kingdom; Unity, body life <i>Allows diversity</i>	To enlarge the institution Uniformity <i>Ensures conformity</i>
EVALUATION TEST	How you serve	What you know
SOURCE FOR SECURING STAFF	Servant workers developed within; tested before they are set apart for ministry	Trained, professional clergy Hired from outside (Clergy do not rise from within)
FOCUS	<i>Relationships</i>	<i>Task-oriented</i>
THEOLOGICAL IMAGE	<i>Body of Christ (1 Cor 12)</i>	<i>Earthy Temple (John 2:13-21)</i>

Adapted from

"A STUDY IN CONTRASTS" from Ralph W. Neighbour, Jr.,
Where Do We Go From Here? A Guidebook for the Cell Group Church
(Houston, TX: Touch Publications, 2000), 76.

<http://www.touchusa.org/web/products/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=86>

Adaptations by addition from David O. Kueker are in italics.

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