

“The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.”

Steven Covey, *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*

the main thing

The Main Thing: Series at a glance

- The Worship Gathering
- The Chief End of Man
- The Greatest Commandment
- The Gospel
- The Great Commission
- The Life of Jesus (The Gospel of Luke)
- The 1st Century Church (The Acts of the Apostles)

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The Worship Gathering

- Attractional Model / Seeker-driven; Seeker-sensitive Model



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Therefore if the whole church assembles together and all speak in tongues, and uninformed men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your mind? But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all; the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that surely God is among you.

1 Corinthians 14:23-25

the main thing

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- Cultural Christianity; Consumer Christian



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- Cultural Christianity; Consumer Christian
- A Biblical model for the Worship Gathering



the main thing



4 *Spiritual Laws* booklet, Campus Crusade for Christ, 1965

the main thing

FEELINGS



FAITH



FACTS

the main thing

FACTS



FAITH &
FEELINGS



FRUIT

the main thing

BELIEVE



BECOME



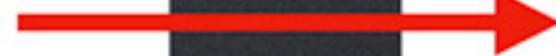
BELONG

the main thing

BELONG



BELIEVE



BECOME

the main thing

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vine-grower. “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He cleans it so that it may bear more fruit. “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit from itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

John 15:1-11

the main thing

“If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. “Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. “These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

John 15:1-11

the main thing

BELIEVE



BECOME



BELONG

the main thing

Cultural Christianity—Identifying Marks

- Denying the inspiration of Scripture or parts of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21).
- Ignoring or downplaying true repentance as the first step toward knowing God (Matthew 4:17; Acts 2:38).
- Focusing on Jesus' love and acceptance to the exclusion of His teaching on hell, obedience, and self-sacrifice (Matthew 4:17; 23:33; Mark 9:43; Luke 12:5).
- Tolerating or even celebrating ongoing sin while claiming to know God (Romans 1:32; 1 Corinthians 5:1–2; 1 John 3:9–10).
- Redefining scriptural truths to accommodate culture (Numbers 23:19; Malachi 3:6).
- Understanding Jesus to be primarily a social reformer, rather than God in the flesh who is the sacrifice for our sin (Matthew 10:34; Mark 14:7).

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Cultural Christianity—Identifying Marks

- Claiming God's promises while ignoring the requirements included with them (Psalm 50:16; Jeremiah 18:10).
- Denying or minimizing Jesus' claim that He is the only way to God (John 3:15–18; 14:6).
- Performing enough religious activity to gain a sense of well-being without a true devotion to Jesus (Galatians 5:16–17; Romans 8:9).
- Talking much about “God” in a general sense, but very little about Jesus Christ as Lord (John 13:13; 14:6).
- Seeing protection and blessing as goals to be achieved, rather than byproducts of a love relationship with God (Mark 12:30; Deuteronomy 11:13–17).
- Choosing a church based upon any or all of the above (Revelation 3:15–17).

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The Worship Gathering

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- Cultural Christianity; Consumer Christian
- A Biblical model for the Worship Gathering

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Biblical Worship Gathering—Identifying Marks

- Order and structure (1 Corinthians 14:26-40; Hebrews 13:17)
- Teaching and preaching (Acts 2:42; 2 Timothy 4:1-2)
- Prayer (Acts 2:42; Colossians 4:2)
- Singing and worship (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16)
- Fellowship and sharing (Acts 2:42, 46-47; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34)
- Following Biblical Ordinances (Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
- Spiritual gifts (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 4:11-16)
- Giving and generosity (Acts 4:32-35; 2 Corinthians 8-9)
- Encouragement and exhortation (Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)

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