

Summer Playlist
Week 2 - Presence Position People
(Putting people & things in Position to Change the World)

TODAY: WEEK 2 - Presence Position People

Re-Discuss the Church - what we are doing here

Core Human Needs have never changed and never will

Relationship (people, loneliness, connection)

Spiritual/Worship (Presence, ascribing value, something bigger)

Position (purpose, why am I here?)

ILL. Something simple like a Family at a Dinner table

- A chair & table have to be positioned for use
- A person has to sit in a chair for use
- Presence happens when people are positioned together
 - People Positioned = A family together (Presence

Presence. Position. People.

Core Human Needs - provided for us by God & His Church

Ephesians 1: 17-19 MSG

I ask—ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—endless energy, boundless strength!

Presence, Position & People

- **Church is** (*Element*)
 - God's Presence
 - Positioned
 - People together

A people positioned together for God's Presence

- **Positioned:** a place where someone or something is located or has been put.
- We are a people that have been put HERE. “positioned” here together to change the world

Element Church =
A People Positioned for God's Presence
Changing the World, together

Church **isn't a place you go** to check a spiritual to do.

Church **is a people you join** to seek God, know yourself and change a hurting world.

Matthew 22:36-40 NIV

Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Love God - seek God (Presence)

Love Self - know yourself (Position)

Love Others - change the world (People)

Element - Why is it/we here?

- A Church of all Ages loving God, self and others at the Intersection of Christ & Culture.

- **Niche: a church of all ages reaching the next one**
 - The University City: The Most Strategic Mission Field on the Planet
 - **Reason #1:** Youth + Influence = Multiplication Not Addition
 - **Reason #2:** Transition creates Unique Formative Windows
 - **Reason #3:** Local Investment, International Impact
 - 7,000 international students, from over 130 countries, who work on all 7 continents
 - 50,000 + international leadership incubator

ILL. Book of Numbers

- Hebrews leave Egypt - going to modern day Israel
- God is leading them
- Hebrew People
- Positioned in a new land
- Establish a place of Worship for God's Presence
 - Presence, Position, People
- **Tabernacle - Portable Church!! (they were doing it first!)**
 - God moves, we move

- Temple - Permanent Church
- When God moved, they had to follow quickly
- Levites given the task of doing the spiritual work
 - Priests didn't work other jobs - focus

(Numbers 3:17) “These were the names of the sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath and Merari.”

(Numbers 3:36-37) “The Merarites were appointed to take care of the frames of the tabernacle, its crossbars, posts, bases, all its equipment, and everything related to their use, as well as the posts of the surrounding courtyard with their bases, tent pegs and ropes.”

(Numbers 3:25) “At the Tent of Meeting the Gershonites were responsible for the care of the tabernacle and tent, its coverings, the curtain at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.”

(Numbers 3:31) “(Kohath was)...responsible for the care of the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the articles of the sanctuary used in ministering, the curtain, and everything related to their use.”

People positioned by God for His Presence
They worked together to accomplish the task at hand

teamelement to 97000

Really want to talk about US as a CHURCH...

#1.) Practical Frames & Foundations (positioning)

(Numbers 3:36-37) “The Merarites were appointed to take care of the frames of the tabernacle, its crossbars, posts, bases, all its equipment, and everything related to their use, as well as the posts of the surrounding courtyard with their bases, tent pegs and ropes.”

- **Scriptural Church Government**
 - Accountability
 - Overseers, Trustees, Pastors
- **Solid Financial Practices & Policies**
 - Stewardship & Generosity
 - Two wings of a plane
 - Legacy Team (Pearls of the King)
- **Processes & Systems**
- **Leadership/Staffing**

You don't see the posts/frames - but they add stability

- Structural positioning if we are going to be usable
- Champions don't do extraordinary things. They do ordinary things, but they do them without thinking, too fast for the other team to react.

Element Church (4 Things)

- **Weekend Gatherings** (for people who aren't here yet)
- **E Groups** (for us to get past our past - discipleship)
- **EQUIP** (for us to discover purpose - connection)
 - Needed & Known
- **Team Element** - (for us to change the world together)
 - **Element People accepting responsibility**
 - Serving
 - Giving

Every person finds a place to help someone else

A Church can't do everything... what will we do

- Taught on a similar topic in 2017... went back & looked over my notes...

Gatherings: 18 documented commitments this month

E Groups: 50% of people in groups. I am leading one.

EQUIP: 36 people go through step 4 over the past 2 months

Team Element: Setup, E Kids, Worship, Environment, -
applause

This is YOUR Church

- Accept responsibility to help someone else -
 - a people positioned for His Presence
- Needed & Known
- Serving & Giving

Every person finds a place to help someone else

=

A people positioned

#2.) Spiritual Experience (Presence)

- You can have posts & tents but you need God's Spirit
 - Some churches super structure but missing Spirit
 - Some churches super Spirit but missing structure
 - We want super structure & super spirit because both are from God
 - ILL. Garden - environment setting is important. Life force of plants is important. They need each other.
 - **1 Cor. 3:6:** I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.

Without God we are toast.

Invite the Presence of God back into ...
(your life, your family, your business, your school work)

- Focus on Scripture (SOAP)
- Focus on Prayer
- Focus on Worship

#3.) With Others for Others (people)

- With others, For Others
- Easy to miss this - they worked together to benefit others
 - Levites worked with Others
 - Three families under Levi worked together
 - Levites worked for Others
 - Levites worked IN ORDER THAT the 12 tribes could experience God
 - 12 Tribes worked with each other
 - 12 Tribes worked for Levites
 - Numbers 7:1-3a
 - When Moses finished setting up the tabernacle, he anointed and consecrated it and all its furnishings. He also anointed and consecrated the altar and all its utensils. 2 Then the leaders of Israel, the heads of families who were the tribal leaders in charge of those who were counted, made offerings.
- We are positioned WITH each other
- We are positioned FOR each other

“With Others”

- Culturally we have changed SO much in the last hundred years and don't seem to recognize it.
 - We have gone from community identity to individual.
 - We have changed how we relate to others (technology)

- We have changed how we understand spirituality
 - **“I don’t have to go to church to be a Christian?”**
 - I don’t believe that anymore.
 - I think you can be saved or Know God alone (in a way)
 - I don’t think you can find freedom, discover purpose & change the world alone

Our Nation is full of people who don’t know how to relate with people different than them

- Q: Where will we learn that?
- By being a part of a move of God in a city together with people that don’t look like us, smell like us, act like us, have the same perspectives as us... and having to deal with God’s will over a community that looks like “us”.

“For Others”

- International leadership incubator
- 50,000 - 100 new weekly, 9.5 - 10 years
- 961 people per week.

We Need Each Other
To STEWARD the presence of God for all

Element Church =
A People Positioned for God’s Presence
Changing the World, together

THERE IS A PLACE AT THIS TABLE FOR YOU.
RECAP & INVITE

You have to pull up your chair.

SALVATION PRAYER:

Prayer for Salvation :

ENCOUNTER

The University City: The *Most* Strategic Mission Field On The Planet

“I don’t really *feel* called to college students.”

As the lead pastor of a multi-generational church, near Michigan State University, I hear phrases like the one above from Christians all the time. I really understand and appreciate their honesty, but I also sense the opportunities we might be leaving on the table.

I usually respond with something like: “We aren’t abstractly passionate about college students, but we are really passionate about Jesus and we believe the University City is the most strategic way to see the Gospel change lives and impact the world.”

Some might add: “‘The *most* strategic?’ C’mon Scott, surely you don’t mean that?”

Yes, I actually do, and I am not the only one.

A 2015 article from the Boston Globe titled, “*Move over, millennials. Gen Z is new target audience*” discusses how secular companies from “*Netflix ... to Target... to Converse*” are continuing to focus on the *next* generation as the “*nation’s most prized consumers*”. If companies ranging from Sperry Top-Sider to Shiseido (Japan’s leading cosmetics maker) see soliciting college students as the best way to make *money*, maybe we as the Church should start seeing investment in them as the best way to advance God’s *mission*.

Here are three main reasons why.

Reason #1: Youth + Influence = Multiplication Not Addition

Secular companies want to reach young influencers in University Cities. Why? They know reaching a young person means gaining a customer for the rest of *their* life. That is called addition. But they also know reaching a young *influencer* means gaining the customer and their sphere of influence for the rest of *all their lives*. That is called multiplication. How about leveraging the same idea for *mission* instead of *money*? It is what Jesus did. He spent three

years investing in 12 young influencers and told them to spend their lives influentially serving others. Jesus' plan wasn't merely *adding* followers, but *multiplying* them. It raises the question, "where are the young influencers in our world today?" They are in training incubators called University Cities. At MSU, this year alone there are over 50,000 influencers, and they are getting ready to lead the world. What if they were equipped to live, lead and influence for the sake of the Gospel? Secular companies see the opportunity for multiplication, so should the Church.

Reason #2: Transition Creates "Formative Windows"

Secular companies know college students are in a *transition* between childhood and adulthood. Why is this important? Companies see this as a finite "formative window" where people examine and establish internal beliefs and behaviors that last a very long time. The same article states, "[young people] are doing identity development work, coming up with their own... preferences." Companies want to impact people in this window to influence lifelong buying patterns. On a spiritual front, there is much more at stake than buying preferences. We know a high percentage of young people leave the church or abandon their faith in college. Why? They are re-examining what they were *told* and firmly settling into what they now *believe*. This spiritually formative window is where they reexamine and establish values, paradigms and behaviors that will undergird the rest of their lives. The college years are potentially the *most* transitional, and spiritually foundational, years in one's life. Secular companies use this transition to prosper bottom lines. The Church should use it to prosper human lives.

Reason #3: Local Investment. International Impact.

Secular companies look for opportunities to make small, localized investments that will reap national or international impact. Where is something like that possible? In University Cities, the literal "crossroads" of the world. Michigan State University's International Center cites current enrollment of over 7,000 international students, from over 130 countries, who work on all 7 continents. At Element Church we say, "The world is *in* our backyard." Indeed it is.

Think about this... we spend "Christian Dollars" to send missionaries all over the world (and we should do that), but the world is spending their dollars to send their best and brightest leaders to us. They are in our backyard, learning for four, six, or eight years and then head back home, or to major centers of influence, to impact schools, businesses, and governments. Simply put: change a life in a University City and change the world. That is an opportunity secular companies won't miss. As the Church we can't miss it either.

Opportunities Together

I hope you can begin to see why I believe the University City is the *most* strategic place on the planet to invest the Gospel. So what should we all do? We can pray, give or go, but my plea is that we do something... and do it now.

The Bible says, "The harvest is ready, the laborers are few." The next move is up to us.

If you agree, explore www.theelement.church or contact me at scott@theelement.church so we can talk about working together to change the backyard and change the world.