

# It's Not About You

(The Key to Killing Consumerism in the Church)

August 5, 2018 | WONDERFUL MERCY CHURCH

# Consumerism in the Church

“What if God wanted to use us to put an end to the whole consumer mindset of church? We come to worship services and we critique. We walk away going, ‘Yeah, the sermon was all right. Music was a little loud. I don’t really like that one song.’ When did we get to the point where we could walk out of here and say, ‘Yeah, I didn’t really like worship today’ and think that’s an okay thing to say?”

# Consumerism in the Church

“I just can’t picture the angels in heaven, who with the elders gather around the throne, worshiping 24/7, walking around saying, ‘Eh, worship wasn’t that good today.’ God’s not saying to Himself right now, “How can I entertain you during a worship service?”

Because in heaven right now everyone’s focused on the throne and agreed on this: it’s just amazing to be in His presence.” [Francis Chan, “Get Over Yourself,” sermon of December 24, 2017, adapted and edited]

# Ephesians 4:3-6, 15-16 PASSION

“Be faithful to guard the sweet harmony of the Holy Spirit among you in the bonds of peace, <sup>4</sup> being one body and one spirit, as you were all called into the same glorious hope of divine destiny. <sup>5</sup> For the Lord God is one, and so are we, for we share in one faith, one baptism, and one Father. <sup>6</sup> And He is the perfect Father who leads us all, works through us all, and lives in us all!”

# Ephesians 4:3-6, 15-16 PASSION

<sup>15</sup> “... we will remain strong and always sincere in our love as we express the truth. All our direction and ministries will flow from Christ and lead us deeper into him, the anointed Head of his body, the church.

# Ephesians 4:3-6, 15-16 PASSION

<sup>16</sup> “For his ‘body’ has been formed in his image and is closely joined together and constantly connected as one. And every member has been given divine gifts to contribute to the growth of all; and as these gifts operate effectively throughout the whole body, we are built up and made perfect in love.”

# Ephesians 4:15 PASSION

<sup>15</sup> “... we will remain strong and always sincere in our love as we express the truth. All our direction and ministries will flow from Christ and lead us deeper into him, the anointed Head of his body, the church.”

# Killing Consumerism

- The key to killing consumerism in church: all direction and ministries flowing from Christ
- We are addicted to bringing our judgment to the experiences we have in church. Do they please us? Do they satisfy us? Do they give us what our itching ears wish to hear? After all, we are prone to fill up on spiritual junk food and entertainment



# Discerning God's Heart Together: THE QUESTION

- Should WMC shift to a single Sunday morning worship service for the remainder of 2018, with the expectation that numerical growth will require the addition of a second service starting in Jan. 2019?
- We are a family—so we're going to talk about this as a family and discern God's heart together

# Discerning God's Heart Together:

## THE RATIONALE

- Worshiping together in a single service for the next five months will enhance our experience of community and fits with our Life Together ministry theme for 2018
- Each time we go to one service in July we receive multiple inquiries about the possibility of making this our regular pattern... might God be trying to tell us something?

# Discerning God's Heart Together: THE RATIONALE

- It will positively impact our Mercy Kids ministry
- Returning to a two service format in September or January will be a purposeful decision rather than a decision made because of an established tradition

# Discerning God's Heart Together: THE CHALLENGES

- Some may feel this is a signal our church is failing to thrive and we are cutting back to one service because we don't have enough people to sustain two
  - Attendance in July was 25% higher than July 2017
  - Annual average attendance for 2017 & 2018: 127
  - Any decision we make will have to do with how we sense God is moving, not with attendance numbers

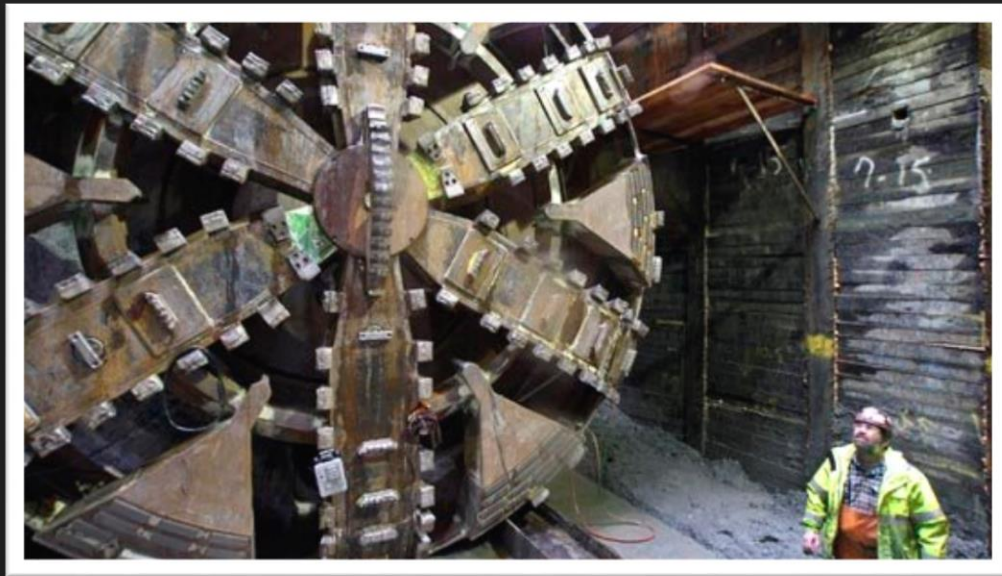
# Discerning God's Heart Together: THE CHALLENGES

- We've never done it this way before
- This may be an incredibly unorthodox move to consolidate in order to give God opportunity to expand
- It will require sacrifice, personally and corporately

# Discerning God's Heart Together: THE PROCESS

- We must discern through prayer whether this idea is from the Lord
- All are invited into time of prayerful discernment, asking, “God what do you want to happen here?”
- Call to those who have a prayer language: use it!





Boring through barriers we haven't been able to breach



# Discerning God's Heart Together:

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

- As much as possible we want to move out of revelation and not reason alone
- Pray faithfully about this, remembering that it is not about you and it's not about me
- **Ephesians 4:15** "... we will remain strong and always sincere in our love as we express the truth. All our direction and ministries will flow from Christ and lead us deeper into him, the anointed Head of his body, the church."



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