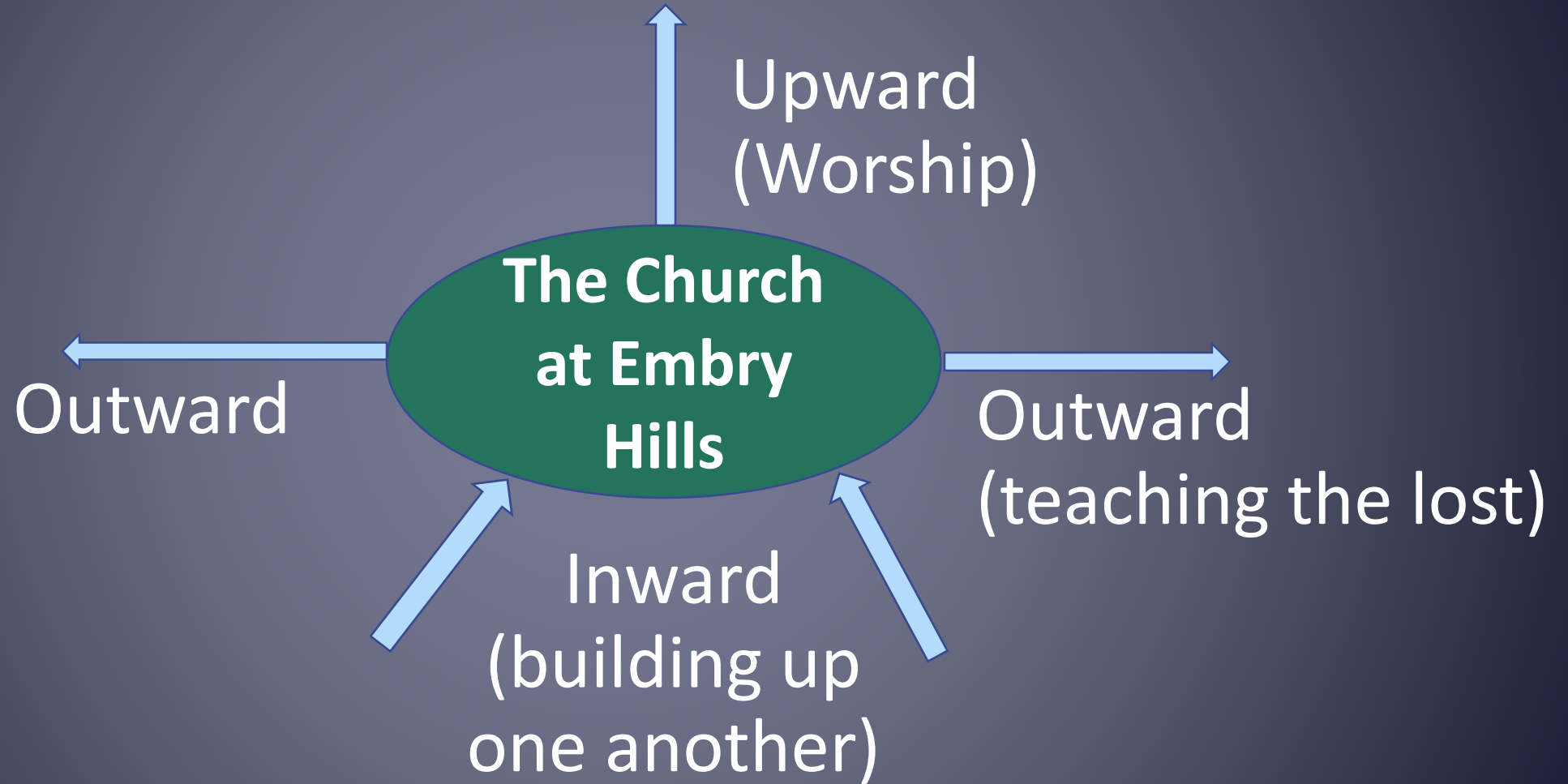




How Is a Church Ready to Teach the Lost?

Three Purposes for Local Churches





Goals for Every Member of the Body

Ephesians 4:11-16

- Knowledge of the Son of God – vs. 13
- Maturity – vs. 13
- Measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ – vs. 13
- To no longer be children – vs. 14
- To grow up in every way – vs. 15

24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Three Ways a Church's Spiritual Growth (inward purpose) Affects Its Evangelism

1. It provides knowledge of the word needed to teach the lost

in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect – I Peter 3:15

2. It changes us into the world

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill ¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation – I Peter 2:11-12

3. It provides our work

Example – the church in Jerusalem

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles

⁴ Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word – Acts 8:1,4

1. They were filled with knowledge

2. They were characterized by
work with each other

and they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers – Acts 2:42

3. They formed close, lasting relationships –
essential for the church

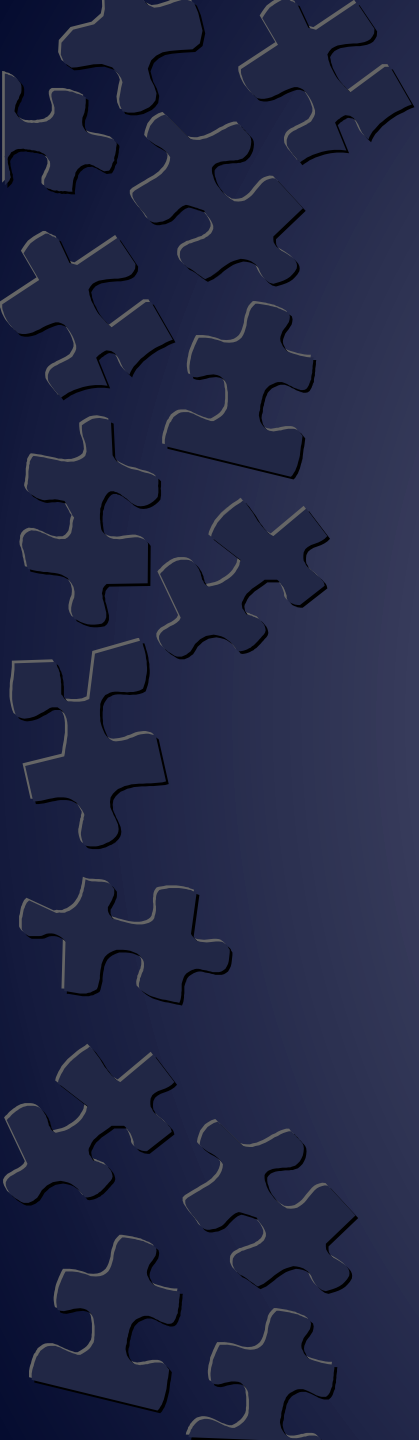
³² Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common – Acts 4:32



Example – the church in Antioch

Acts 11:19-30

- Those who were scattered from Jerusalem taught Jews and Gentiles (vs. 19-20)
- Barnabas comes and starts the work of edification (vs. 23) *exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose.*
- Barnabas reaches out to Paul and for a year (vs. 26) they met with the church and taught.
- Concerned always about teaching the lost – Acts 13:1-3 and 14:26-28.



Jerusalem
population
100,000 –
500,000

Atlanta
population
5,800,000