

# CHAPTER 6: JESUS-CENTERED CULTURE

## SUMMARY

Every church has a culture, but not every church possesses a healthy culture. The healthier the culture, the more likely the church will impact the community around her. A healthy gospel-centric culture turns the church from a mere institution into a movement of truth and grace where people's lives are continually formed in the gospel.

It is possible for a church to believe and teach the gospel but not have a healthy, gospel culture. A church culture is healthy when there is congruence and consistency between what the church says is important to her and what others know really is important to her.

## AUDIT

### *Individual*

- 1. How would you describe churches you've been a part of in the past? Were their cultures healthy and gospel-centric? Why or why not?**
- 2. Is there a disconnect between what you believe and what you practice? What does this communicate?**
- 3. In what ways do you cultivate a healthy culture in your family and friendships? In what ways do you not?**
- 4. How do you contribute to the distinct and unique culture of your church?**

*Group*

1. **How would you describe the culture of your church? Is it a culture centered on the gospel? How?**
2. **What is the difference between believing and teaching the gospel and having a gospel culture?**
3. **How do others perceive your church? What would the people in your community say about your church?**
4. **What are the strong theological convictions of your church?**
5. **What are some areas in your church where there is a disconnect between theology and practice?**
6. **What are the areas in your church that need to be shored up theologically? In other words, where are the places you have practices in motion without a strong theological foundation?**
7. **What are some practical ways that you can better foster a gospel-centered culture?**

## **RENEWAL**

*Individual*

1. **Personally, how can you better line up your philosophy and practice with your theology?**
2. **What steps can you take to better use your unique gifts in the church?**

3. Consider practical ways you can foster a gospel-centered culture in your family:

*Group*

1. How do the implications of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ play out in your ministries?
2. What steps can you take to better line up your philosophy and practice with your theology?
3. Do you need to reteach the theology behind any of your practices?
4. What do you need to do to be a church that not only believes and teaches the gospel but also has a gospel culture?
5. How will you share these convictions and changes with the church at large? How will you cast new vision and move forward?

## **PRAYER**

*Father, we thank You for not only saving us into a relationship with You but also for saving us into a people, a family, the Church. We ask that You would help us see where we've moved away from your gospel in our philosophies and practices and that You would give us the grace and power to better line these things back up. We ask that You would help us be a healthier, more gospel-centered church with a healthier, more gospel-centered culture.*