

Family of Families Updates

BILD Conference

- Airport pickups, especially October 25th
- Evening Custodian work needed
- Setup work with Brian
- We have enough hosts for now
- Participate on Thursday evening Nov 3
- Help with the banquet on Friday Nov, 4
- Come with your international guest to the banquet on Friday, Nov 4
- 135 International leaders and 75 USA leaders expected
- Our churches committed \$80,000 we are at \$48,225.

Pies, babies and more babies

Carol's letter to Oakwood Road Church

Written May 9-14, 2006 (the week she died from Ovarian Cancer)

Dear Church Family,

I love you. I want to leave a legacy to you - to share with you, my church family, what Christ has meant to me and to reflect to coming generations what He is and what He can be to a person - What Jesus is.

I want each person in the church to begin to understand what God wants from him - to find a spot where he or she can begin plugging in. Each member must fulfill his role and see the thing God called him to be and do. Each person needs to see what God wants him to be, to get ahold of it, and to do it. Kids need to start learning this at a young age, when they can understand it and put meat and bones on it.

I desire that each person - especially the ordinary person in the church whom no one particularly pays attention to - would understand that God has a need for him. As if God got ahold of him and said, "I need you. I need you to fulfill a particular function." God might say to another person, "Don't have this idea of yourself, don't think wrongly about yourself, because I have another idea for you.]"

I have been so tied up with what I thought I should be; I think I have spent 3/4 of my life trying to be somebody else, other than who I really am. It's easy to go there and get side tracked.

I want to acknowledge to each person in the church your value - your beauty. I want you to know that I see you that way; I see your value... and that God loves you. He sent His only Son for you. What an awesome thing that is.

What about the guy in the church that is kind of a "drip"? He doesn't try; he doesn't take his place. Because of that, kindness ought to be expressed from others towards him - not ignoring that person. Each person in the church must understand that person's value. Just because people don't offer to him the value that's due him, it doesn't mean the value's not there. Each person must acknowledge the value that is there for every person.

I have seen each person's gifts being valued, especially at women's seminars. Someone may come with a beautiful plate of food; someone else will come with a song. Neither the food nor the song has beauty in and of itself. But the beauty that is there can cause tears to roll down your cheeks. The beauty of Christ shines through all, and people can observe it. It is beautiful to see; each person doing her part, fulfilling the greater will of God. It's the fulfillment of each person's gift, showing that the total is way more than the sum of the parts, giving the beauty to Christ, not focusing on each individual part. The giftedness comes together forming a beautiful bouquet - a picture of how we can work together and love one another.

I have so many things on my heart that I wish I could verbalize to you, to let you know how special each of you is...not artificial special, but real special. That comes from something God created within you, not because I say it or other says it, but because of what God says about you and id inn you and is doing in you.

I want to leave a legacy with you...

...I want each person in the church to begin to understand what God wants from him - to find a spot where he or she can begin plugging in. Each member must fulfill his role and see the thing God called him to be and do. Each person needs to see what God wants him to be, to get ahold of it, and to do it. Kids need to start learning this at a young age, when they can understand it and put meat and bones on it.

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Who, Where and Why

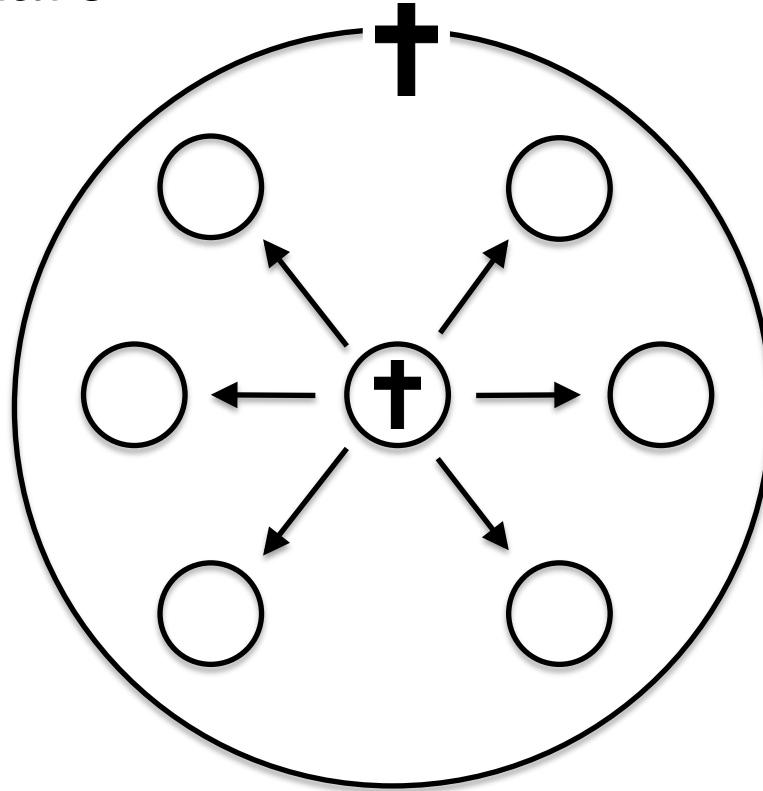
1. Michael and Caleb
 - This week: **Everyone Bringing a Contribution**
 - Remember: when paradigms shift, everything goes back to zero
2. Three parts of our local strategy to accomplish the work
 - Networking with churches locally
 - Meeting Pressing Needs of the City – local, national and global impact
 - **Improving our Communication within our CityChurch**
3. Eph 4:15-16: “We must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.”



2 Co 1.8-9a: “Brothers and sisters, we don’t want to keep you in the dark about the suffering we went through in Asia. The load we had to carry was far too heavy for us; it got to the point where we gave up on life itself. Yes: deep inside ourselves we received the death sentence.”



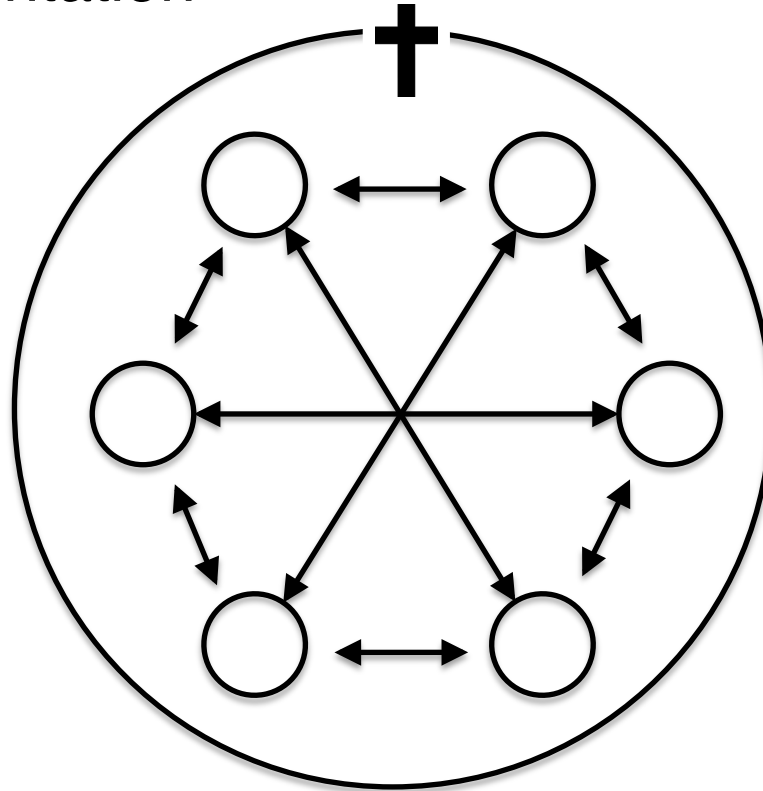
“Receiver Orientation”



“The sermon is the bedrock of the Protestant Liturgy. For five hundred years, it has functioned like clockwork. Every Sunday morning, the pastor steps up to his pulpit and delivers an inspirational oration to a passive, pew-warming audience.”

Viola, et al., Pagan Christianity? 85-86

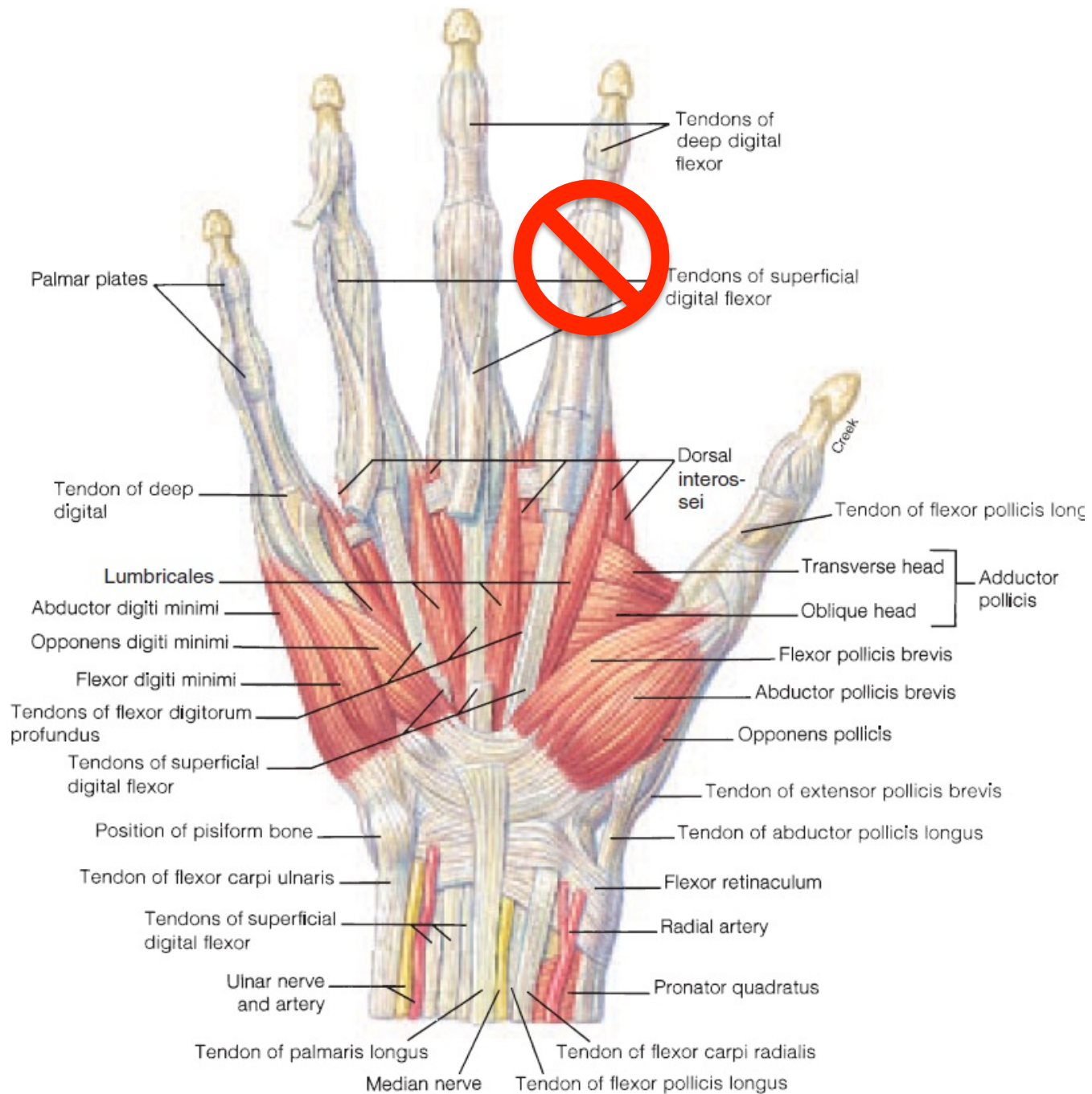
“Participant Orientation”



“Within the unity of the body each member has a distinctive part to play, a distinctive service to perform, for the effective functioning of the whole.” Bruce, The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians, 339-340



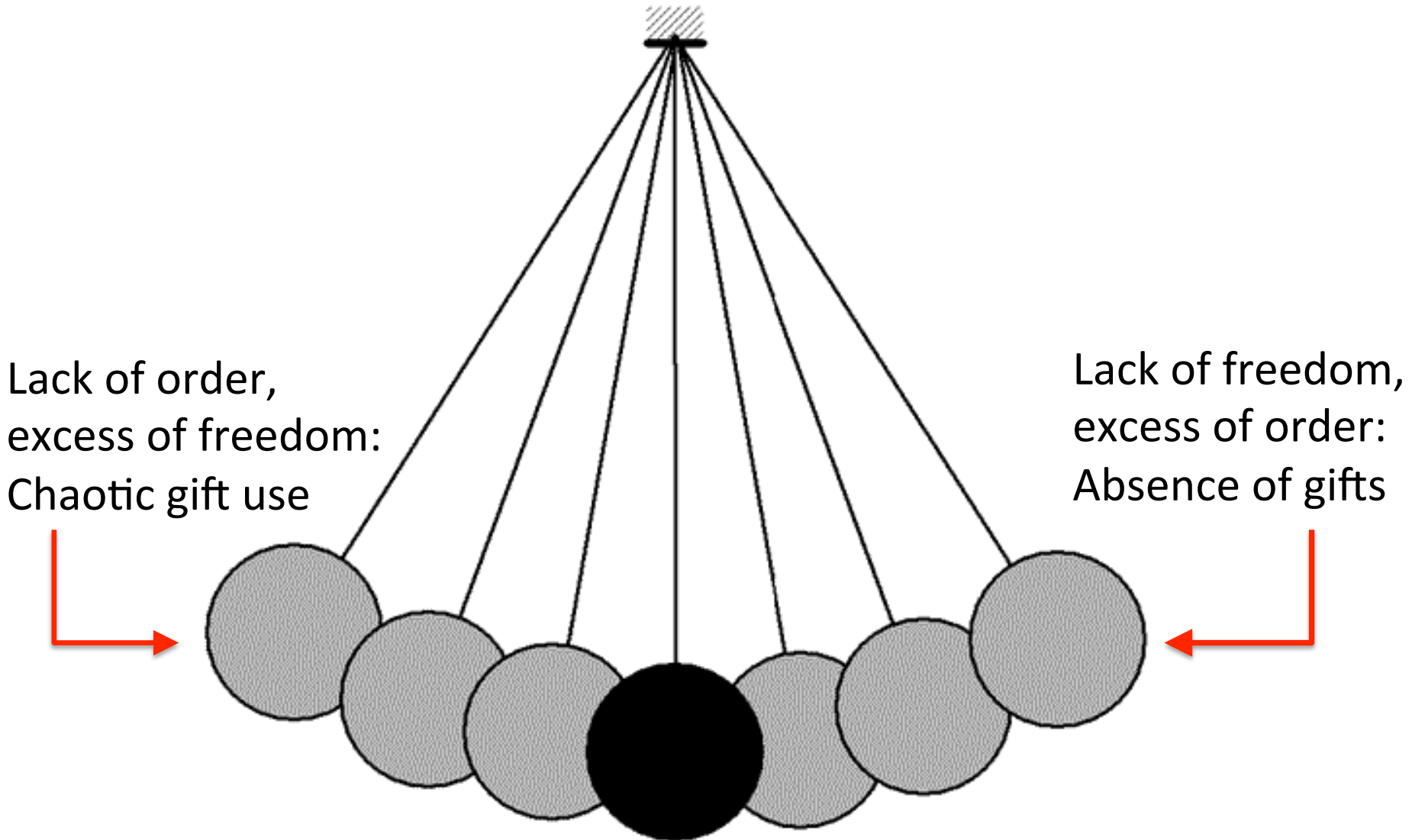
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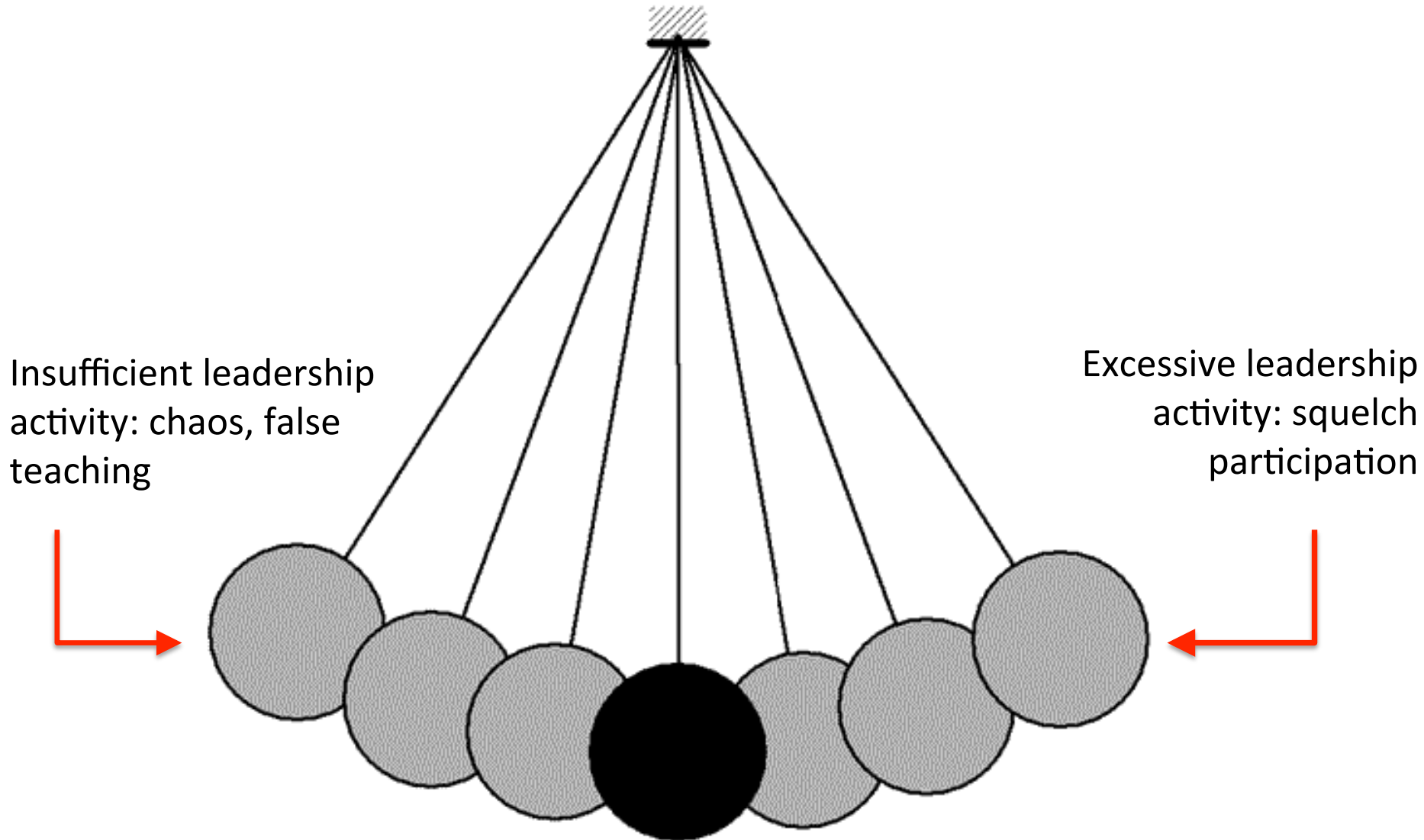


Pendulum Swing





Pendulum Swing: Leadership Bias

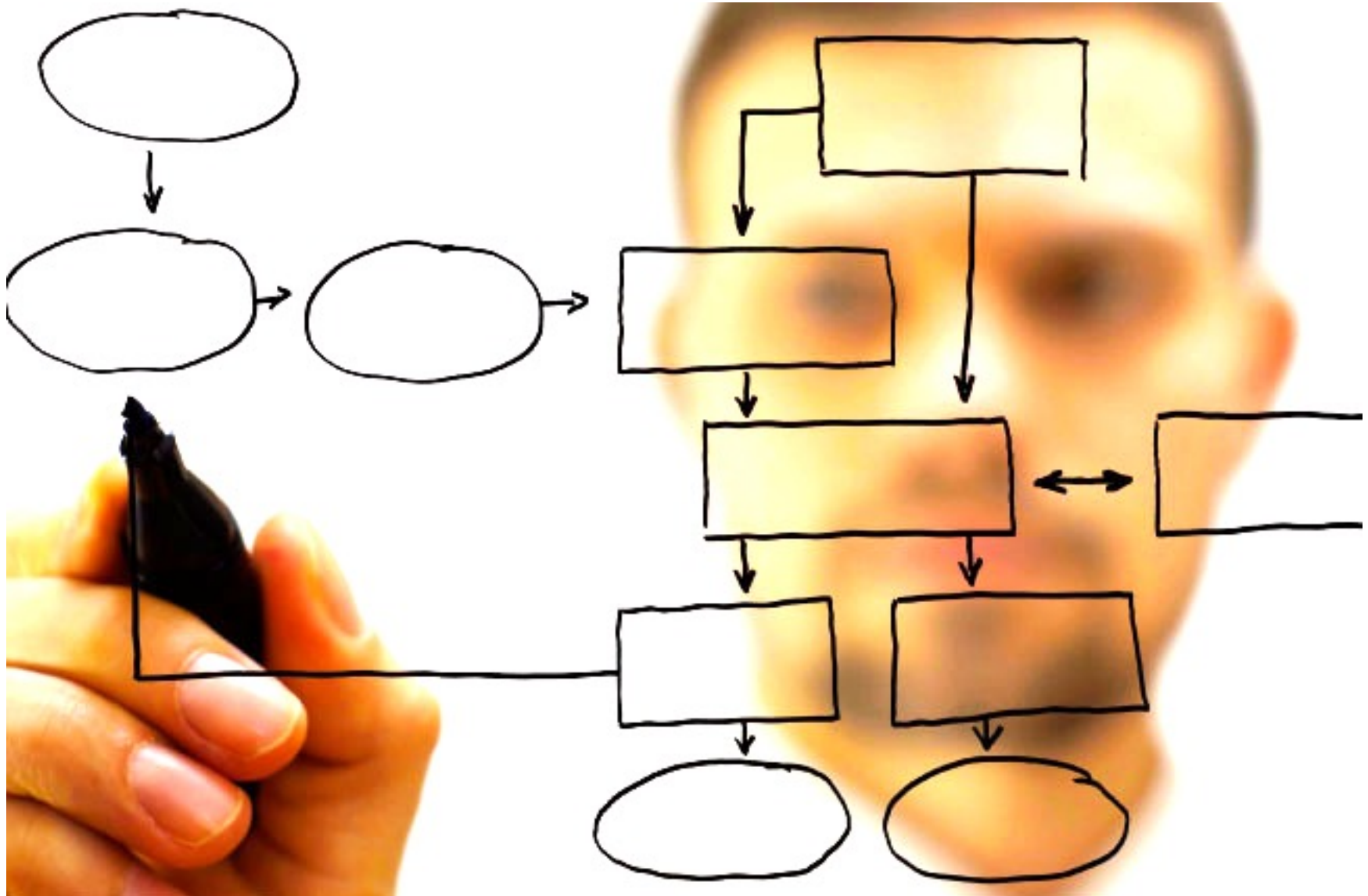


Ep 4.11-12, 14-16: “So these were the gifts that he gave: some were to be apostles, others prophets, others evangelists, others pastors and teachers. Their job is to equip the saints for their work of service, and so to build up the king’s body. ... As a result, we won’t be babies any longer, thrown this and that on a stormy sea, blown about by every gust of teaching. ... We must speak the truth in love, and so grow up in everything into him--that is, into the king, who is the head. He supplies the growth that the whole body needs, linked as it is and held together by every joint which supports it, with each member doing its own proper work. Then the body builds itself up in love.”

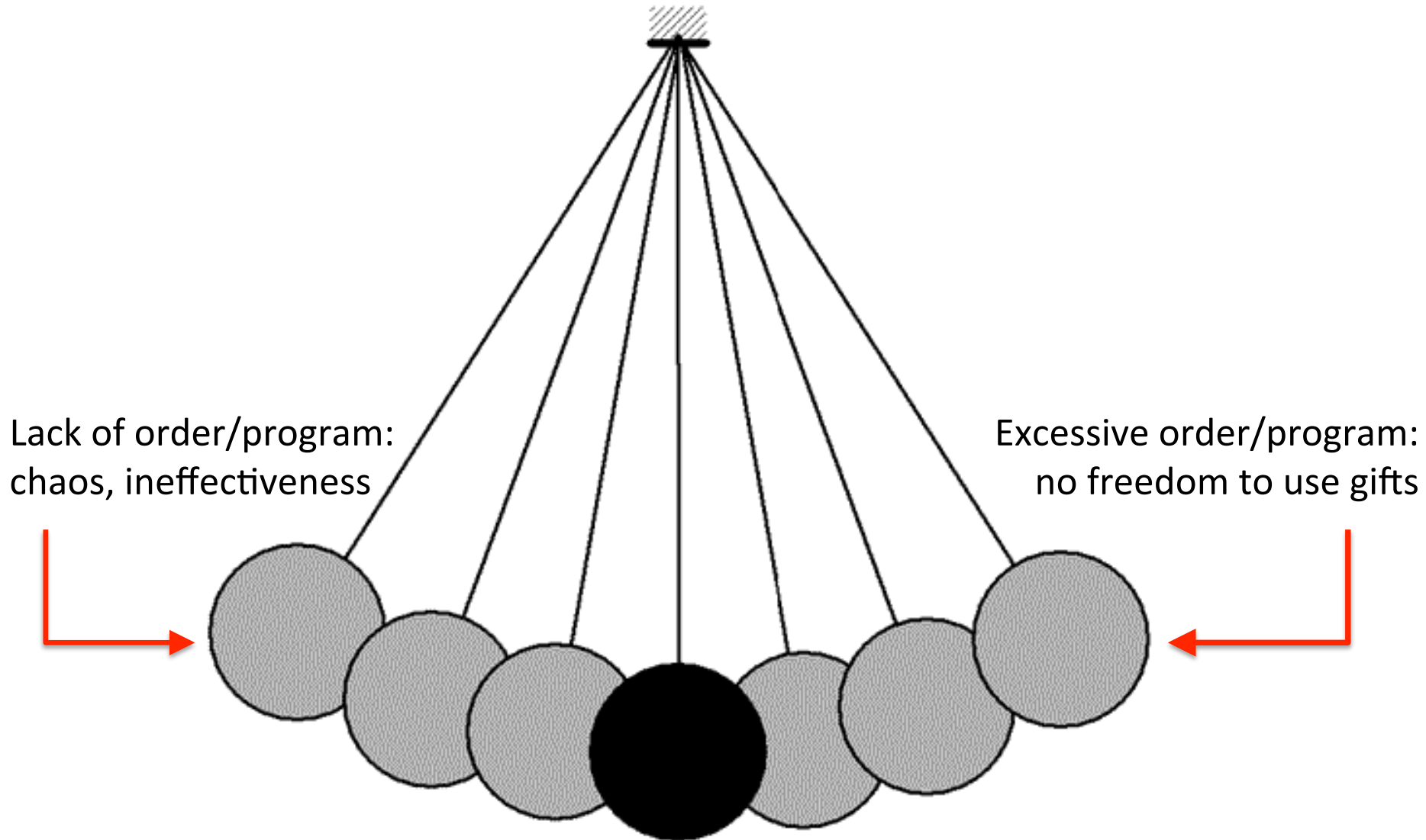
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Pendulum Swing: Program Bias



1 Co 14.26-33: “So where does this leave us, my brothers and sisters? When you come together, one person has a psalm, another some teaching, another a revelation, another a tongue, and another some interpretation. Let all things be done for the general upbuilding. If anyone speaks in a tongue, there should be two or at most three, each taking their turn, and one of them should put it into plain speech. But if none of them can do that, let them be silent in the assembly, and speak to themselves and to God. As for the prophets, let two or three speak, and the others evaluate what is said. If fresh revelations come to someone sitting there, the first person should be silent. You can all prophesy one by one, so that everyone can learn, and everyone can be encouraged. The spirits of the prophets are under the control of the prophets, since God is a God, not of chaos, but of peace.”

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Discussion with James

- When you/we moved from the typical Protestant church meeting to meeting as a family, what did our time look like?
- We often said, “we are familiar with what we don’t want, but we are not familiar with what we want”. What does that mean?
- Today, how do you lead and shepherd us throughout the week and during our meeting times? What does it look like?
- What wisdom would you give us on this?

Discussion time

- So where does this leave us today, how do we ensure that everyone understands how they are a ligament in the body? How do help everyone that are an important part?
- What is the leaders role in this process? In what ways is this to be shepherded?
- How do you create an environment where everyone is naturally sharing? Not too much order nor chaotic? How much time does this take to develop?

Final Exhortation

- As leaders of our churches, you are not there to run a program, or run the church...Rather, you are here to lead a family, equipping them with a foundation in the Kergyma and Didache for every good work.
- As shepherds, your role is not to be right or run a good program, but move people to maturity in the Didache.
- As a people, you are not attending church meetings on Sundays or throughout the week to hear a sermon or to see what you can get out of it for inspiration. We are meeting regularly to celebrate our new life in Christ, encouraging each other in the faith to press on towards the goal.