

# Two Patterns of the Church

Christian Corporation or Christian Community?

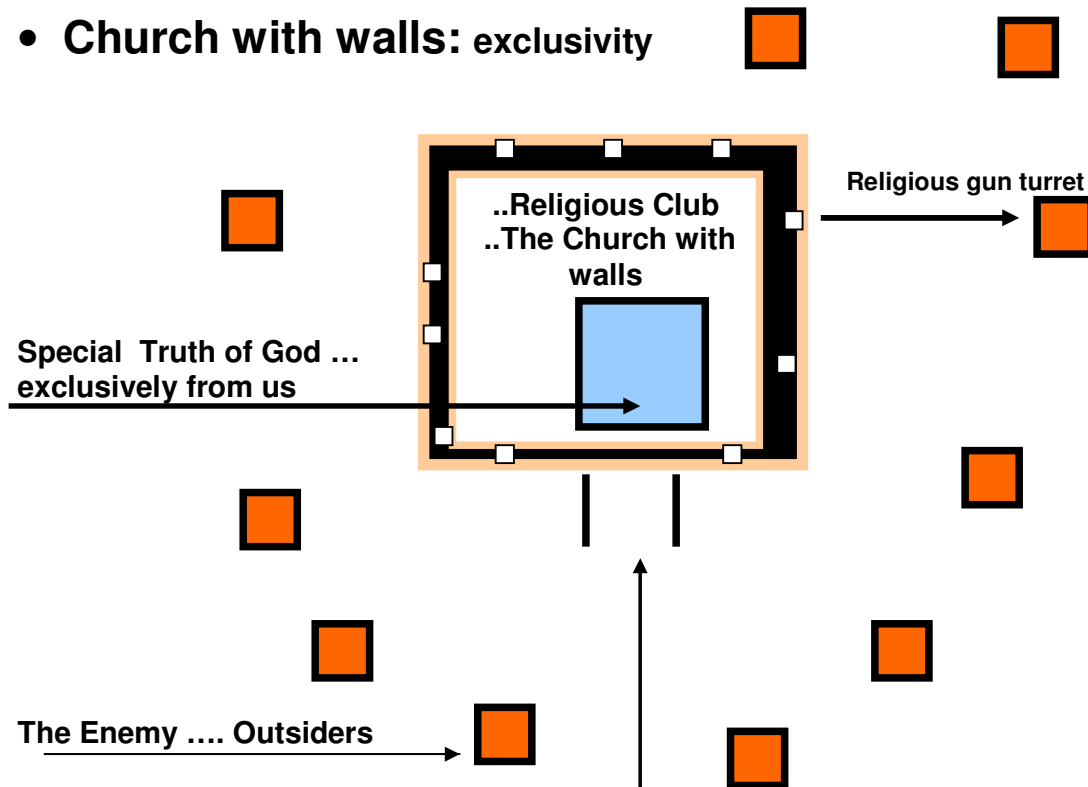
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## 1. The Religious Fortress Mentality ..... Weekly, The Church goes into the world to bring people to the church

**Objective: To defend and understand the 'Truth Of God'**

This religious approach is explicit (outwardly evident and defined) and is marked by four things: a cult, creed, code (ethics) and community (which is more inward looking .... Program orientated versus people centred ..... people directed by organisational hierarchy versus being led by the written Word, the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit

- **Church with walls: exclusivity**



### Big Religious Gates:

Which say to others 'we have standards here .... you have to make changes to your life before we let you in here'

## 2. The Church as a Spiritual Community

..... **Weekly, The Church meets together** .... People centred versus Program orientated ..... people led by the Holy Spirit versus organisational hierarchy




**Objective: To bring the Life of the Kingdom of God to individual people already with Christ and to those without Christ.**

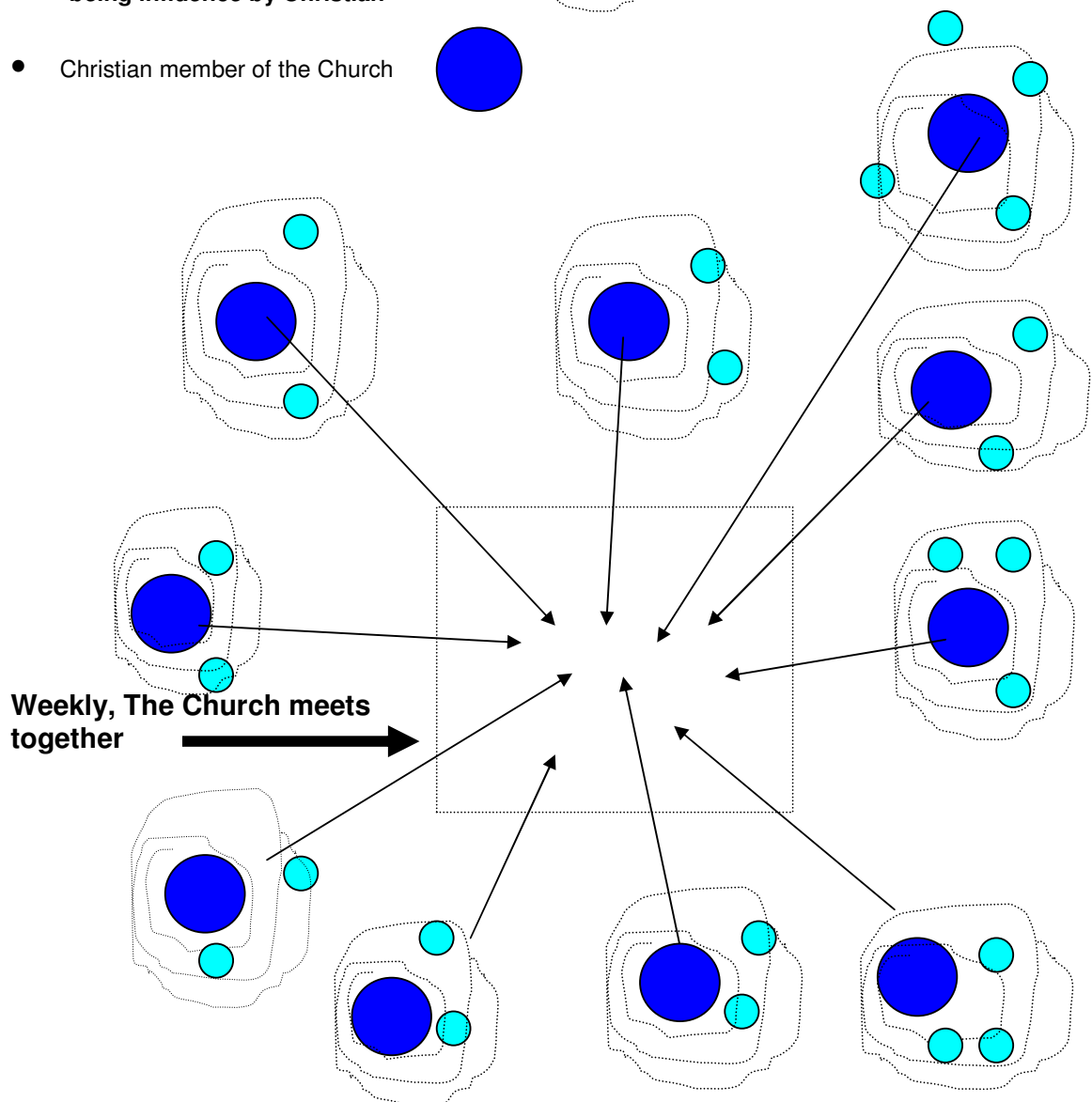
**Spirituality:** is implicit (inwardly self evident and undefined). It refers to how an individual lives meaningfully with the ultimate questions of life, his or her response to the deepest truths of the universe as he or she apprehends these. It answers such queries as:

- Who are we as a people?
- What is the meaning of life?
- What values should I live by?

Christ's plan and purpose is also community, which is outward looking.

### Key:

- Member of the community being influence by Christian 
  - Christian member of the Church 
-  Ripple of Influence in the community



### 3. The Church as a Spiritual Community of small households meeting regularly together:

..... Weekly or regularly , The Church meets together in small household groups or cells ...Very People centred .. ..... led by the written Word, the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit:



#### Quiet Order::

- Ministry to one another
- Study of the Word of God for our lives
- Reaching out to others in compassion and relationships

#### Key:

- Member of the community being influence by a Christian believer 
- Ripple of Influence in the community 

#### Christian member of the Church:

- New Member........ mature member ..........Person with servant leadership gifts as given in [1Ti 5:17](#) 'Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour , especially they who labour in the word and doctrine' 