

Rev. Slayton's connection with the "Leadership Network" of Peter Drucker

In his Jan 4, 2015 sermon, "His Will," Rev. Slayton presented the "Lego Block" analogy with 8 places of connection. This business model comes from the book, "Sticky Church" by Larry Osborne, who is on the board of directors of the heretical Emergent Church's "Leadership Network." He also "fed" the congregation at South Norfolk with a short list of flawed statistics about megachurches, which appears to have come from another "Leadership Network" guru, Warren Bird, who wrote a paper titled, "Megachurches as Spectator Religion."

With a sermon short on Biblical exegesis, and long on promotion of off-site programs with folksy illustrations, he gave the congregation a revealing look into his true theological view of how a church should function; and it's not Biblical.

First, let's explore "Sticky Church," obviously endorsed by Slayton.

One Pastor/reviewer wrote: In 'Sticky Church' Mr. Osborne is correct in thinking that it is important to foster an atmosphere where relationships can be built and maintained because one cannot refute that Jesus told us to disciple one another. (. . . go into all the world making disciples of them . . .). (Rev. Slayton quoted this scripture in this sermon). Unfortunately, in 'Sticky Church' there seems to be an ideological abdication of any true academic maturity that will also come from the Holy Spirit when one spends time with God's Word and continues the practice God instituted in Deuteronomy by telling us to remind each other of the things God has done for us and the promises He has made and kept to us (part of our fellowship).

Although he seems to me to be spend the first quarter of the book admonishing the 'programs' and 'practices' of mainline denominations or even individual churches as the reason for what he perceives as their apparent failure, he then goes on to give you his own 'program', that is of course, going to work this time . . .; even when all the other programs he has experienced have failed, he is sure that his will not. At least that is my impression of what is conveyed in his writing. Especially when he has expanded his ideology into an entire series of training and encouragement books and seminars.

To me it seems that his offer of a better way to build a church is a bait and switch that ignores the true teaching of the Lord about how to build

and have relationships and replaces Godly discipleship with a pandering to the cultural resurgence of (worldly) communal desires and (hypocritical) leadership styles where man's (our flesh) success in the endeavor is confirmation that the idea was a good one (a Godly one).

Bait: He tells you that church should be all about relationships and how important they are between us as people, with a small nod to a relationship with Christ.

Switch: He then explains his vision that success will be the institution and practice of his 'program' and that doing it his way will increase attendance in your church (the switch).

The bait is what you want to hear as a believer; relationships are important and loving each other is the only true measure of the success of a community of believers. The switch is that he says your success will come in the numbers of people who do not leave by the back door.

If righteous, holy and mature relationships were truly his desire for everyone, then he would follow God's model and not his own. He would not care if there were 20 righteous people in your church or merely 20,000 attenders. The quality of an individual relationship with Jesus Christ will be so obviously displayed in someone that anyone the Holy Spirit calls to Christ will also be drawn to that person who is filled with Christ!

Larry Osborne has simply moved the membership drive rhetoric that he did not like (which he is correct is not genuine discipleship) from the front door and the pulpit to the back door and so wants you to believe that because he has done so, he has come up with a better way of doing it.

If you truly want a deeper and more fulfilling relationship with Christ, if you want to impact the lives of your family, your friends and your community, then seek after the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.

A Second Pastor/reviewer said this: This book teaches you how to keep people in your particular church through "sermon-based small groups." It is filled with religious principles, but empty of passion

for Jesus Christ and His kingdom. This book was difficult to read. I felt like a dark cloud was over me the whole time I read it. It's all about how to run a business, yet far from what Jesus is seeking to do with HIS business.

A Third Pastor who reviewed the book said: Osborne speaks of small groups as one of the main things that helps his members "stick" and remain in his church. It is his church's primary method of closing the back door. This is indeed a value of small groups, but should be a byproduct for groups, not the main reason a church launches them... small groups of people meeting in Christ's name are the church. I truly believe the bride of Christ is being prostituted for man's glory and structures ... and her Husband ain't content with the way biblical community is being used in the Western church world.

The groups in Osborne's North Coast Church seem to be populated through the big church services, not primarily from the hard work of the members through relationship building. He writes this is the best way to start groups and be "sticky" because unbelievers are most comfortable with a big, impersonal event compared to a scary small group experience. While this is a true sociological statement (especially in Southern California where his church is located), it completely ignores the fact that people are looking for faith through genuine relationships, not religion or spirituality.

If you desire to see your small groups develop a passion for Christ in their midst that drives them to love Him more, each other sacrificially, AND the lost through friendship and servanthood, this book isn't going to help you in that pursuit. Osborne shares his opinions about what has not worked in his church concerning holistic small groups (cell groups) because his church, like so many others, went about it all wrong... making congregational assimilation the primary goal and treating it like a program launch, not a completely different way of viewing and being the church.

We must now assume, given the evidence, that South Norfolk Baptist is being thrown under the "Emergent Church" Bus.