

Discernment

The call to follow Jesus

“The Foundation of Discernment”

Spiritual Community

Heritage Alliance Church

Pastor Shawn Hubert

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“Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves ... We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. Romans 12:3,5

“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.”

John 17:20-21

Living in Christian Community is foundational to hearing God’s voice

“If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”

Matthew 18:19-20

The Church is to be a discerning community

“It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us”

Acts 15:28

Do I recognize my ability for self-deception?

Do I recognize my temptation to run away from hard truths?

“Where there is no guidance, the people fall, but in abundance of counselors there is victory.”

Proverbs 11:14

“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel.”

Proverbs 12:15

We have a strong need for community of truth tellers.

“He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit.... It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have... “This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.”

1 Corinthians 12:8-27

“What Christian community?” Where do I go? (Discipline of Community)

- Choose community with others who have a solid foundation...
*Living as surrendered followers of Jesus
Committed to the Word of God*
- Where you sense the presence of Jesus when they gather together?
- Go where telling the TRUTH is valued more than telling people what they want to hear. (1 Kings 22, Jeremiah 28, Ezekiel 13)

Questions for reflection: What is the best and worst parts of Christian community? Do you find it easy to be honest with others? Why or why not? Do you have a community of truth tellers? What does it, or would it look like? What do you think is the role of others in helping you discern God’s voice? Do you have experience using others to help you listen to God? What did you learn in the process?