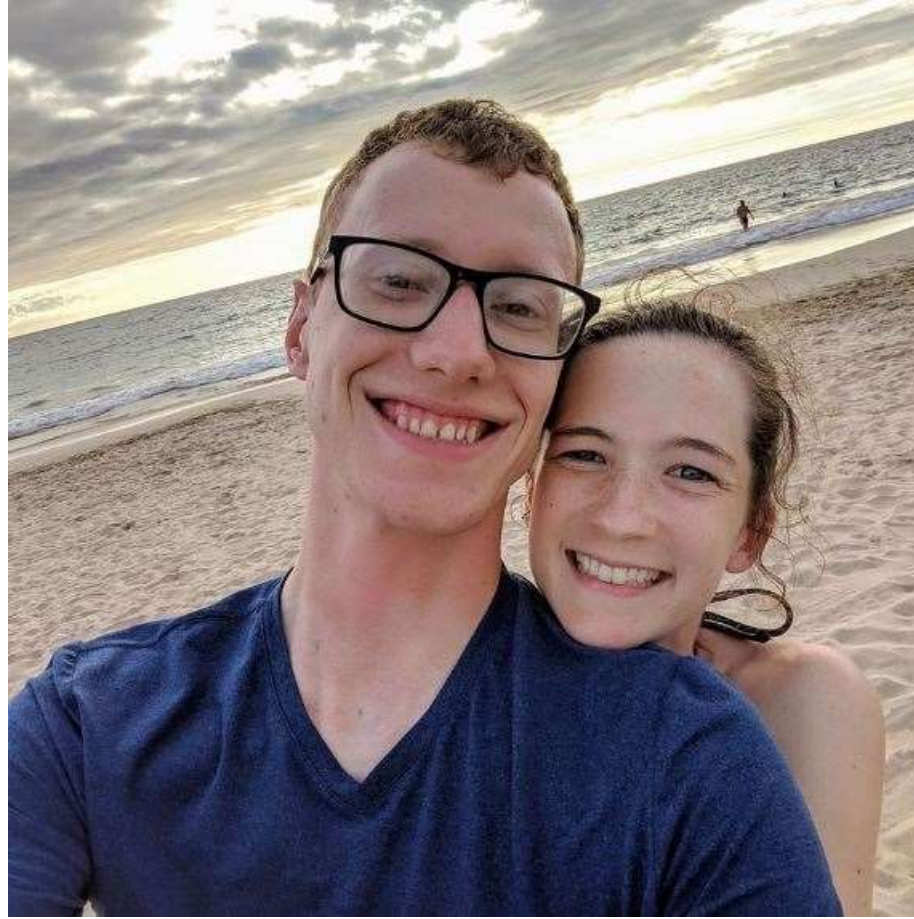




The Church Equipped: Shepherding, ReBuild, and the Work of Ministry



Introduction to Paul's Middle Letters

RE:BUILD

Life Rebuilding Programs



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RE:BUILD

Life Rebuilding Programs



Why is Re:BUILD so engaging? So attractive to churches?

In a practical way, it puts churches back in the game.

And it is at the center of meeting pressing needs in a way no other groups can do it, like the churches—a true family of families.

How did the church ever get
out of the game?

Paul's Middle Letters—Ephesians

The work of the ministry

It is clear to me that “being in ministry”—pastors, missionaries—as opposed to being in “secular” work is probably the most foundational of all distortions of our churches today.

This morning, I hope to fully shape your understanding of the “work of ministry,” which we are all supposed to be equipped to do.

This concept is why I trained in ministry (MAT to BILD) rather than going to seminary.

It is the heart of BILD which grew out of MAT (1972, 1983)

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Why Is This True?

Why is it that the churches – each a true family of families – can meet pressing needs like no other group can do?

God designed the church and
the churches to be this way

The churches had to be taught
in order for the full power of
God's design to be released

Helping the Ephesians see their role in God's work

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10, NASB95)

Workmanship - creation, workmanship, handiwork (PLGNT)

Created - to make or create something which has not existed before (LN)

Helping the Ephesians see their role in God's work

What exactly did God create out of nothing with his own hands?

Helping the Ephesians see their role in God's work

⁴ By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; ⁶ *to be specific*, that the **Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel** (Eph 3:4–6, NASB95)

Helping the Ephesians see their role in God's work

¹⁹ So then you are **no longer strangers and aliens**, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and **are of God's household**, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into **a holy temple** in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together into **a dwelling of God in the Spirit**. (Ephesians 2:19–22, NASB95)

Helping the Ephesians see their role in God's work

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, ²¹ **to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus** to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

(Ephesians 3:20–21, NASB95)

Helping the Ephesians see their role in God's work

¹¹ And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, ¹² for the **equipping** of the saints for the work of service, to the **building up of the body of Christ**; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11–13, NASB95)

Helping the Ephesians see their role in God's work

¹⁴ I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; ¹⁵ but in case I am delayed, *I write* so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the **household of God**, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. (1 Timothy 3:14–15, NASB95)

What did Paul want them to see?

A **handiwork** of God designed for good work

Members of God's own **family**

A **body** needing every part to work in united harmony

A **temple** where the living God dwells

A **household** where family life is driven by and preserves God's truth

Discussion

1. What is the difference between “we are each” a handiwork of God and “we are collectively together” a handiwork of God? Why is this difference important?
2. What things can undermine us from working together as a called people, a united body, and a one-minded family?
3. What type of equipping from leaders is needed to sustain our collective life and ministry over time?
4. Why is it critical for a hub church like Ephesus to see these issues?

The Critical Task of Equipping

11 So these were the gifts that he gave. Some were to be apostles, others prophets, others evangelists, and others pastors and teachers. 12 Their job is to give God's people the equipment they need for their work of service, and so to build up the king's body. (Eph 4:11, NT Wright)

Equipping the church at Ephesus

²⁰ But you did not learn Christ in this way, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, ²² that, in reference to your former manner of life, **you lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, ²³ and that you **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**, ²⁴ and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

(Ephesians 4:20–24, NASB95)

Equipping the church at Ephesus

A new way of thinking

A new way of living

The Critical Task of Equipping

Paul equipped them to live as a people, with a transformed family life, shaped by the teachings of Christ which they held in common. For over a decade he kept this vision in front of them and prevented it from being undermined.

Equipping the church at Ephesus

- AD 53-55 Three years in Ephesus. Daily in the hall of Tyrannus. Training leaders night and day. All Asia hears. (Acts 19-20)
- AD 60 Ephesians written and sent. More complete vision of the role of the church in God's plan.
- AD 62, 67 1 & 2 Timothy written. Timothy left at Ephesus to instruct and more fully order this church family.

Equipping the church at Ephesus

³ As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, ⁴ nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to **mere speculation rather than *furthering the administration of God*** which is by faith. ⁵ But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (1 Timothy 1:3–5, NASB95)

The church and the World Cup

You will not take proactive steps to see that the body is working at full power.

Without clarity on this you will not assess the strength of the whole and adjust yourself or encourage others.

You will not recognize things that could weaken the whole and deal with them.

God-willing, we want to continue to be an
Ephesus-type hub church

REACHING SHADOW CITIES

GLOBAL CITIES STRATEGY



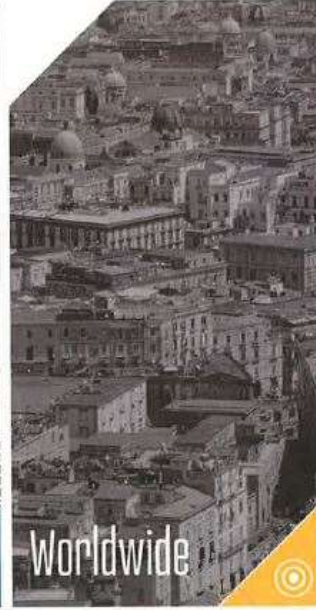
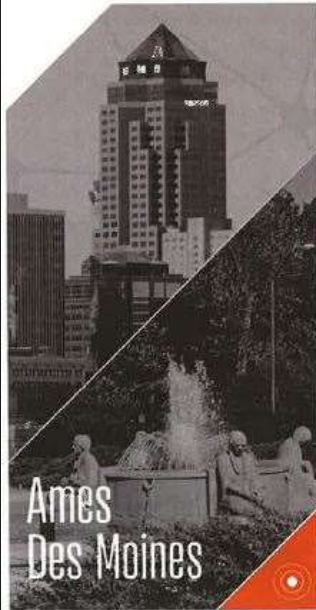
REACHING URBAN CENTERS

30-CITY URBAN STRATEGY





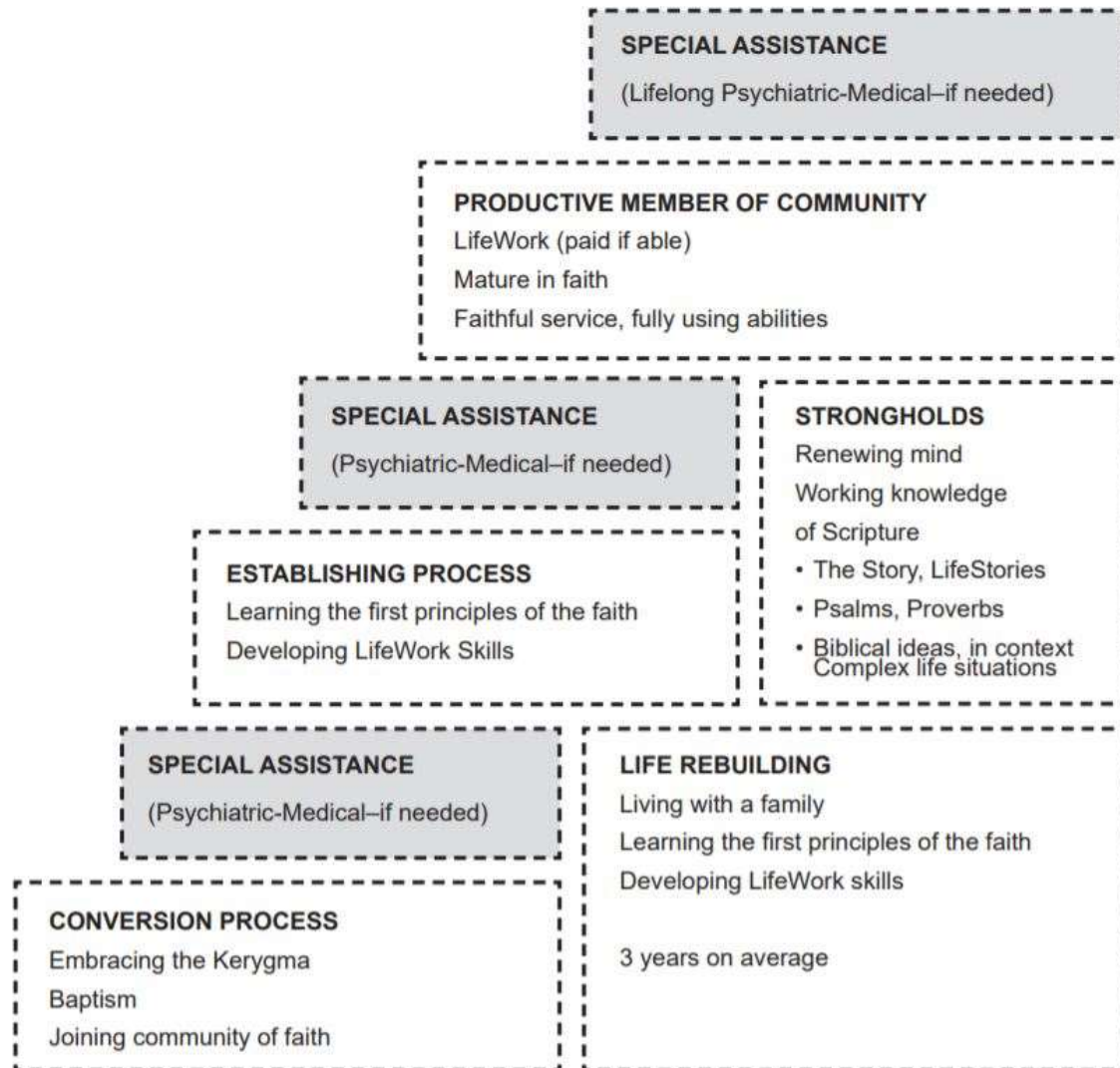
STRATEGIC INTENT 2018-2020



*Planting and Establishing Churches
in Ames and Des Moines*



PASTORAL CARE TAXONOMY



RE:BUILD

Life Rebuilding Programs



The Critical Task of Equipping

Paul equipped them to live as a people, with a transformed family life, shaped by the teachings of Christ which they held in common. For over a decade he kept this vision in front of them and prevented it from being undermined.

What could undermine this?

1. As our network grows, if the churches become islands and we don't continue to work together within our clusters and as a network
2. If we don't process conflict in a manner that preserves our one-mindedness as a body
3. If the stranger and the needy don't find us to be a new family
4. If we cease to collectively grow in the scriptures
5. If the next generation does not gain the convictions from which to lead and minister (Immerse)

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According to our Dec 2018 reports

- 359 people in ADMCC
- 214 adults and 145 children
- 16 churches
- 6 clusters (plus Boone)

Decentralizing 10 yrs ago into a network of home churches has born tremendous fruit.

- Shepherding issues become visible and are addressed
- Everyone has an opportunity to utilize their gifts
- The gatherings are in fact a family gathering, smaller and more intimate
- The threshold is lowered for those genuinely outside the faith to be exposed to who we are

Nonetheless, we remain a network, a unified church of churches

- Leaders meet regularly in order to be unified in vision across the churches
- Clustering of the churches helps them to work together for establishment and expansion
- Network-wide leadership training allows those with teaching gifts to benefit all
- Resources from across the network can be tapped for complex shepherding situations

When I think of individuals whose lives have changed over the last 5 years....

Shepherding (informal, formal, ReBuild) effective only in the context of the whole family being a family

Life(n) Timelines – all reflect the impact of the whole community

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³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:31–32, NASB95)

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We have to do more than “be like a family”

A family can be closed or open

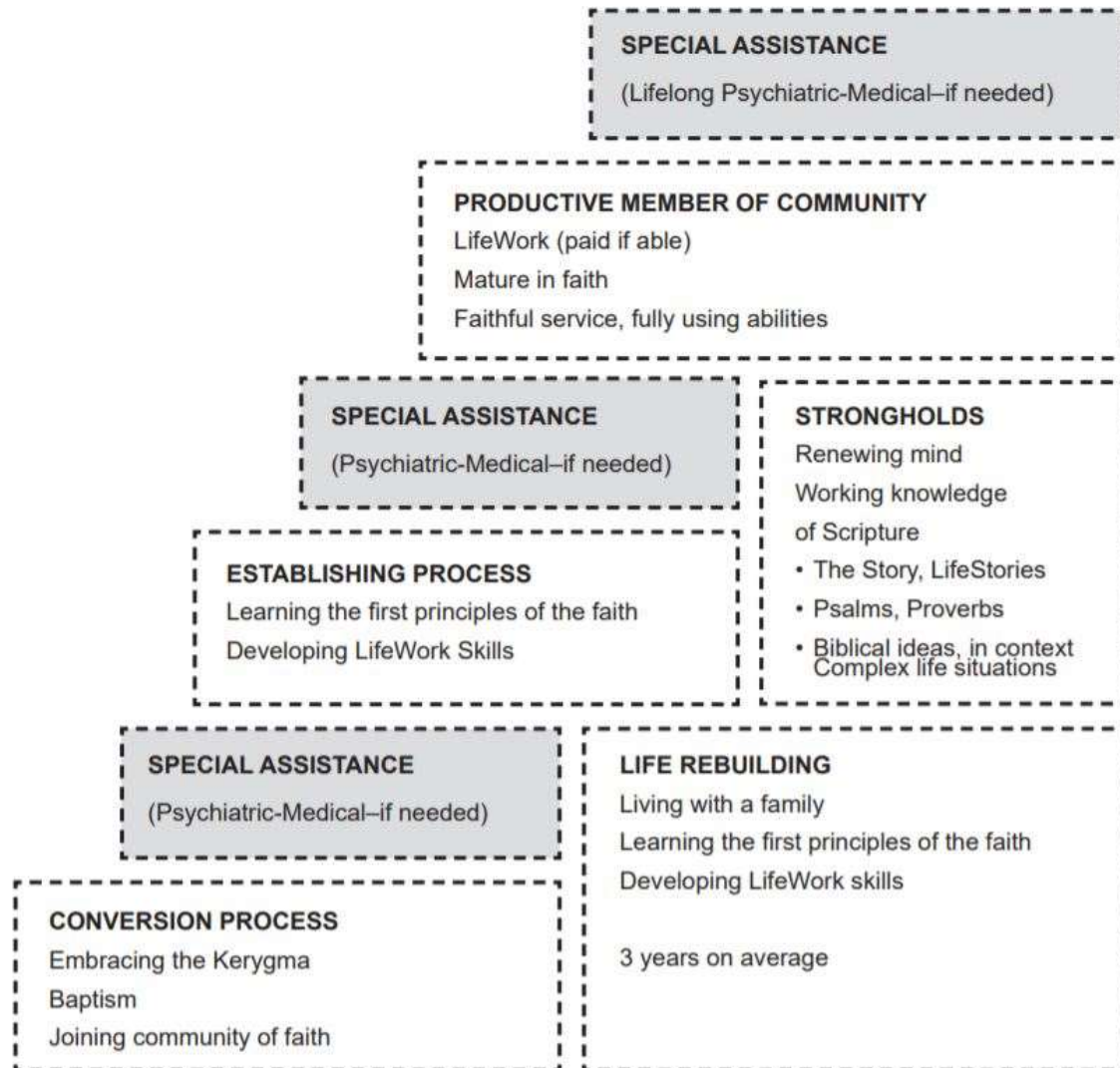
A family can maintain existed relationships or be open for more

It can be so tight that others can't join or it can welcome others

We are God's new family, transformed in our thinking and living differently. We need to help others connect to community

We need to excel still more here

PASTORAL CARE TAXONOMY



RE:BUILD

Life Rebuilding Programs



ReBuild requires hospitality at many levels

Our conversations – Do you take interest in a newcomer, stranger, disadvantaged?

Our tables – Who do you eat with?

Our homes – Is it a sanctuary or a center of mission?

Our circle of relationships – Is this circle closed or open for more?

Our churches as a family – Who do you connect with outside the meetings?

Our agape meals – Are all welcome?

Our common work and service – Are all invited to contribute?

ReBuild requires hospitality as many levels

Notice the levels

- Individual hospitality
- Family hospitality
- Church family hospitality
- Hospitality within our clusters and entire network

The whole becomes greater than the sum of the parts

Barriers to Hospitality

- Class separations
- Preserving your privacy
- You're tired or have lost heart
- You entertain rather than love strangers
- Afraid of the risk
- Don't want your routine messed up
- Feeling a lack of resources

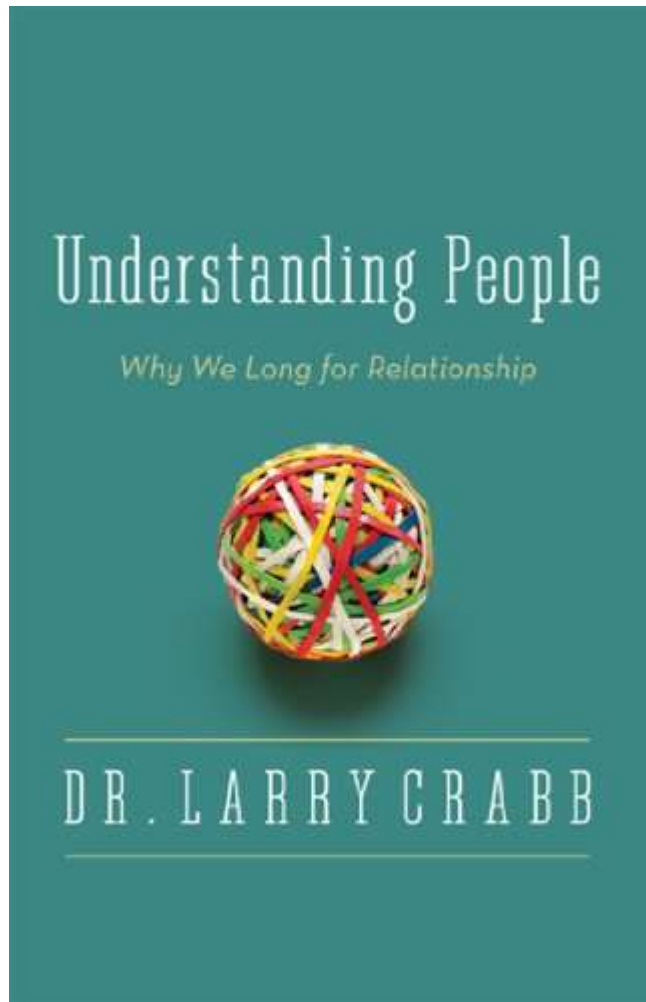
Barriers to Hospitality

- Don't want people to sit on, spill on, wear out, break, ruin, or steal your stuff
- You don't want them to see your warts
- Worried about being used, conned, or taken advantage of
- Afraid to disrupt a close set of church family relationships
- Not willing to be vulnerable or let people help you
- Expectations regarding your impact

What could undermine this?

1. As our network grows, if the churches become islands and we don't continue to work together within our clusters and as a network
2. If we don't process conflict in a manner that preserves our one-mindedness as a body
3. If the stranger and the needy don't find us to be a new family
4. **If we cease to collectively grow in the scriptures**
5. If the next generation does not gain the convictions from which to lead and minister (Immerse)

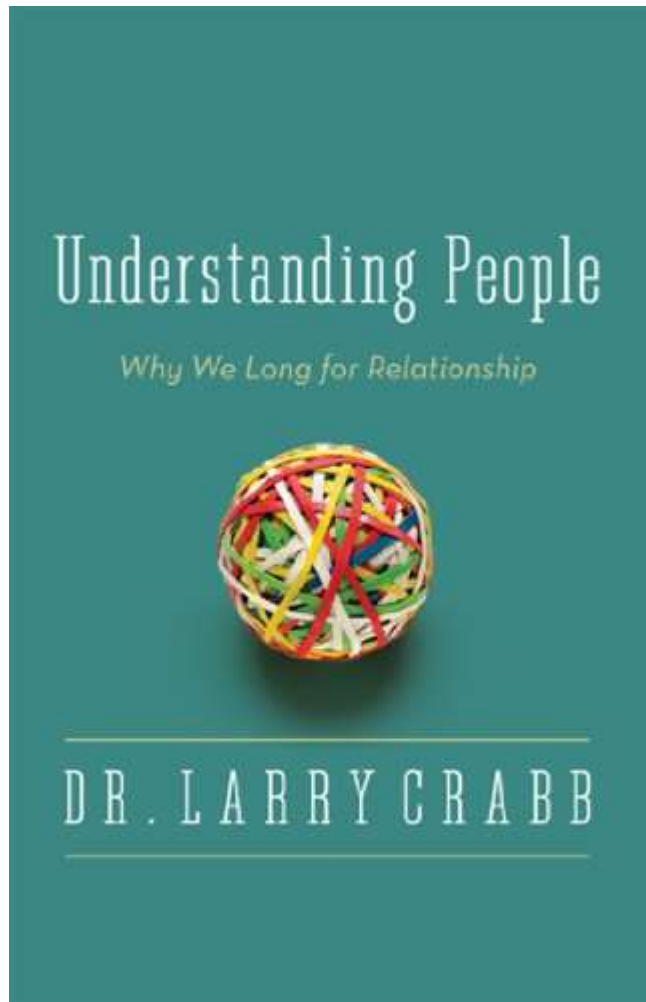
Are the Scriptures sufficient?



At least three different positions may be taken.

1. No, the Bible is not sufficient, because it does not directly answer every question about how life should be lived on this earth and about how life can be lived according to an effective pattern.
2. Yes, the Bible is sufficient, because it does directly answer every question about how life should be lived on this earth and about how life can be lived according to an effective pattern

Are the Scriptures sufficient?



3. Yes, the Bible is sufficient, because it provides either direct information or authoritative categories for answering all questions about how life should be lived on this earth and about how it can be lived according to an effective pattern. Whenever the Bible is not explicit about a given concern, biblical categories provide a framework for thinking through an adequate response to that concern.

But the sufficiency of the scriptures won't matter if the church is unprepared to use it.

Shepherding & Counseling Manual

Part II: Mastering the Scriptures

- Mastery of the Metanarrative
- Mastery of the Gospel (kerygma)
- Mastery of the Teaching (didache)
- Mastery of the Wisdom Literature
- Mastery of the Psalms
- Mastery of the Scriptures as a Whole

What have you done in the last 3 months to increase your mastery of the Scriptures and your ability to pass on the truth to others?

What pieces of our ordered learning process have you participated in?

What have you written down?

What have you brought to share at your home church gathering?

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Immerse 2019



In each church and cluster

1. Who are the next generation of leaders and mature families?
2. How are you developing them?
3. What training are you providing or steering them into?
4. How are you challenging them to step up?

Who do we need to see that we are?

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Members of God's own **family**

A **body** needing every part to work in united harmony

A **temple** where the living God dwells

A **household** where family life is driven by and preserves
God's truth

The Church Equipped: Shepherding, ReBuild, and the Work of Ministry

Functioning as a unified body