

Think Inside the box

**“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship,
to the breaking of bread, and to prayers.”**

--Acts 2:42

There are so many things that strategic thinkers are coming up with to “grow” churches these days. While these means and methods are, for the most part, neither inherently good, nor inherently bad, they can be a distraction from the simple things that are prescribed in the Scriptures as church activities that God assures us will result in growth in depth and breadth in the body of Christ.

It leads me to think that what we need is not more “thinking outside the box,” as the corporate world would figuratively call us to do. We need, perhaps, to go back to thinking *inside* the box. The box has methods that have led to the church's triumph generation after generation for centuries.

So, when God guides and provides for specialized church programs with a new feel or new spin on things, go ahead and do them, but not at the expense of these things: Fervent, believing prayer of faith and repentance; believing the Word of God as it is publicly taught, and living it out; wholehearted worship in spirit and in truth, from hearts that enter His courts with thanksgiving and praise; being of unified fellowship and love in gathering together to seek each other's betterment and joy in the Lord; proclaiming the simple gospel message to everyone we meet throughout the week, in the boldness and love that being filled with the Spirit provides; and going into all the world, just as He has called us to, for the expressed intent of making disciples who will do all those things, too.

Yep. Great stuff in that box.