

Spiritual Renovation through

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Accountability: A Contemporary Look at

John Wesley's Class Meeting and his

Admonition to Watch over one Another in

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Spiritual Renovation through Acc Contemporary Look at John Wes Meeting and his Admonition to V one Another in Love

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Date of Award

12-2016

Document Type

Dissertation

Degree Name

Doctor of Ministry (DMin)

Links

Doctor of Ministry Program at
Portland Seminary

Department

Seminary

First Advisor

Phil Newell

Second Advisor

Ken Ross

Abstract

The dissertation asserts that Christ-focused small groups, particularly in the Northwest, can be a primary means of spiritual transformation and belonging in the Body of Christ. Without these small groups, spiritual life can be little more than sentimentality. The term, small groups of Christ's followers who "watch over one another in love that they may be able to work out their salvation."

Section 1 introduces the topic of a disconnect between the Church and the transforming community and the spiritual emptiness and loneliness. Three challenges addressed regarding small groups are: inadequate face time given the abundance of electronic connections, and lack of accountability by some. Section 2 evaluates four of the plethora of small group models and explains their shortcomings when measured against the distinctive of the Church. Section 3 examines four major influences that shaped John Wesley, his primary mentor on small groups. These influences are: Wesley's own experience, God loved him, Wesley's spiritual and secular environment, the influence of other individuals whose views on small groups influenced him. This dissertation and forms the template that guides spiritual transformation and nurtures biblical community. Sections 4 and 5 describe the purpose of the Artifact. The Artifact distinction is found in its focus on spiritual transformation should take place in the untidiness of relationships rather than in formal information, education, or social experiences. Section 6 suggests

Recommended Citation

Marshall, Robert, "Spiritual Renovation through Accountability: A Contemporary Look at John Wesley's Class Meeting and his Admonition to Watch over one Another in Love." *Journal of Ministry*. 205.

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