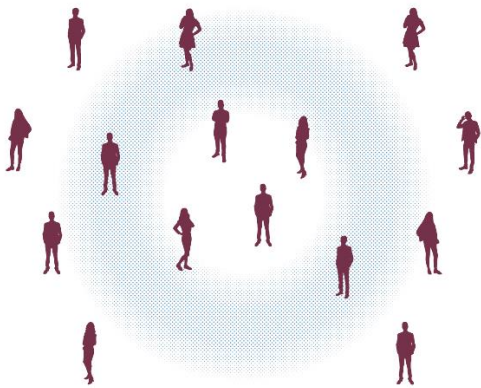
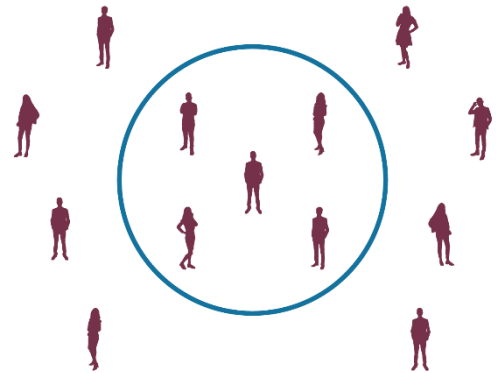


Bounded, Fuzzy, and Centered Churches

centeredsetchurch.com

Bounded Church

A **Bounded Church** has a clear boundary line that is static and distinguishes Christians from non-Christians, or true Christians from mediocre Christians. The line generally consists of a list of correct beliefs and certain visible behaviors. A bounded church has tendencies toward a sense of superiority and judgmentalism. It hinders transparency and shames.

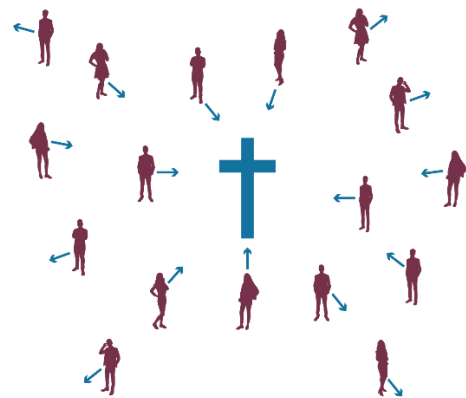


Fuzzy Church

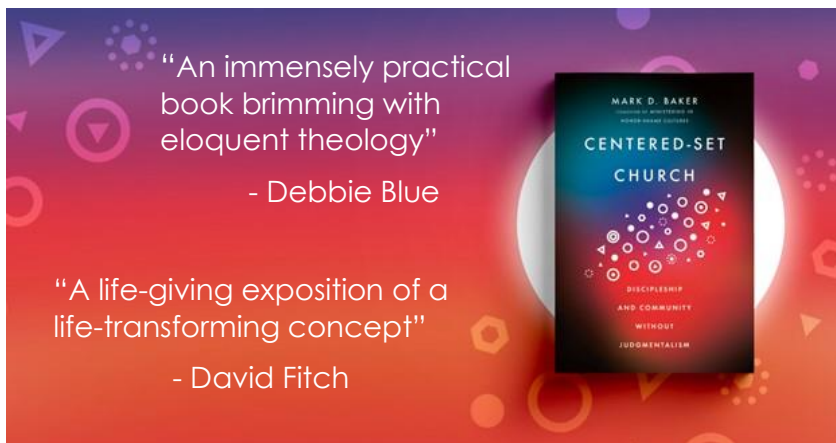
In response to problematic line drawing a **Fuzzy Church** erases the line. The grounds for distinction and shaming judgmentalism are gone, but the fuzziness erodes the group's sense of identity, lacks a sense of call to a different way of living, and inhibits loving others fully. It has a tendency toward blandness.

Centered Church

A **Centered Church** discerns who belongs to the group by observing people's relationship with the center—Jesus Christ. As the diagram illustrates, the group includes all who are oriented toward the center. Their common direction brings unity. There is space to struggle and fail because everyone recognizes that they are in process—moving closer to the center. A centered approach remedies the problems of a bounded church that motivate a fuzzy church to blur boundaries while also avoiding the negative fruit that grows out of a fuzzy approach.



Centered-Set Church

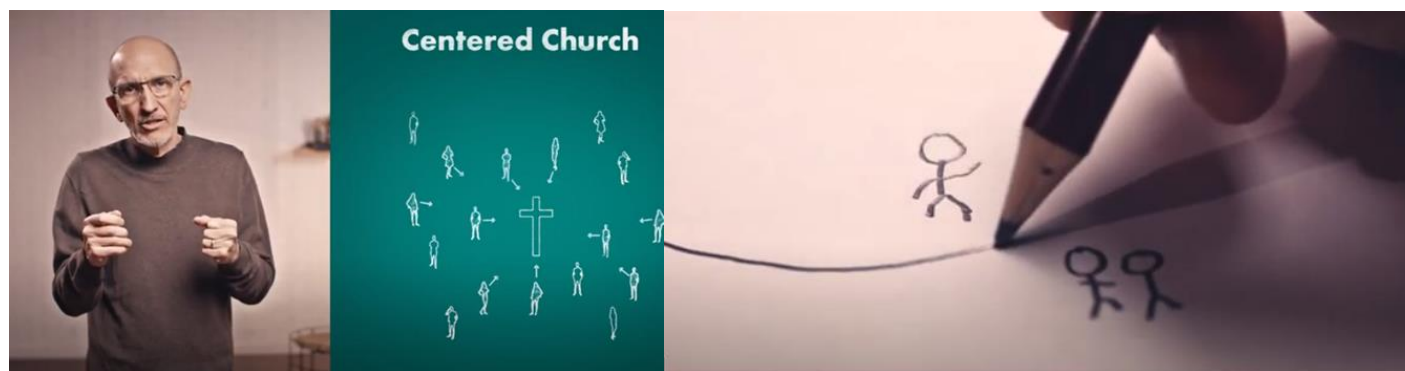


This book first provides in-depth descriptions of bounded, fuzzy, and centered-set churches, rooted in narratives. Then it pivots to application. It overflows with examples from churches living out a centered approach. For further description go to centeredsetchurch.com

Video: Introducing Centered-Set Church

Introducing Centered-Set Church is a five-part video series (15 minutes each) and discussion guide for use with groups.

Check out the trailer at <https://www.centeredsetchurch.com/video-series>

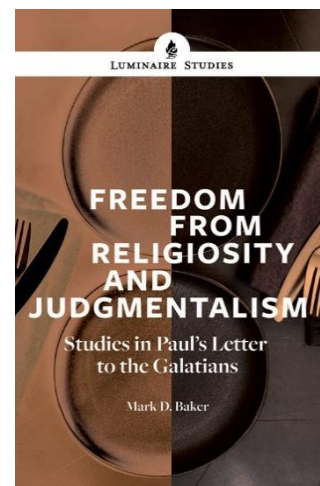


Freedom from Religiosity and Judgmentalism: Studies in Paul's Letter to the Galatians

By Mark D. Baker

This accessibly written commentary provides a biblical basis for a centered approach and highlights numerous insights from Paul on practicing a centered approach. Its short chapters, reflection questions, and prompts for discussion make it great for use with groups.

<https://www.centeredsetchurch.com/galatians>



"Crystal-clear exposition, vivid imagery and illuminating analogies . . ."
Ross Wagner, Duke Divinity School

Mark D. Baker (PhD, Duke University) is professor of mission and theology at Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary in Fresno, California. He served as a missionary in Honduras for ten years and has written a number of books in English and Spanish, including *Ministering in Honor-Shame Cultures* (with Jayson Georges).

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