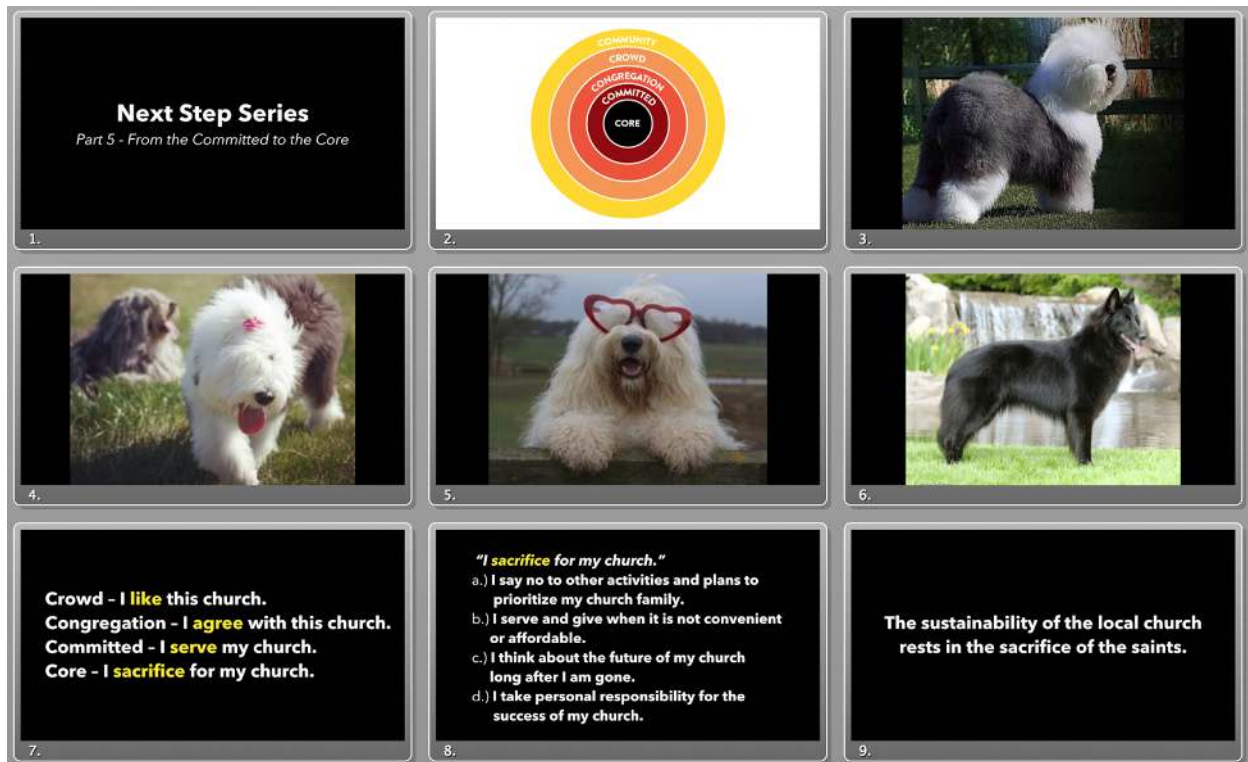


Next Step Series
 Shay Robbins
 Part 5 - From the Committed to the Core



Question #1: What was Shay’s point in using the Sheep, Wolf, and Sheep Dog illustration?

Possible answers: Shay shared we are the sheep, Satan and the world system are the wolf, and those who watch over you in the Lord (elders, spiritual mentors, leaders, fellow brothers and sisters in the church, Core believers) are the sheep dogs. Shay said the sheep often don't even like the sheep dogs because they nip at their heels and bark at them.

Question #2: In what ways do you see yourself as a sheep or a sheep dog in our church?

Question #3: Shay used the now familiar concentric circles diagram which represents our journey from the Community to the Core. As you review the stages in our journey, what does the personal pronoun “my” signify in the Committed and Core stages?

Possible answers: Once you move from saying "that" church or "this" church, to using the personal possessive pronoun "my" church, you have moved into the realm of taking personal responsibility to participate in the life our church community.

1 Community - I attend this church.

- 2 Crowd – I like this church.
- 3 Congregation – I agree with this church.
- 4 Committed – I serve my church.
- 5 Core – I sacrifice for my church

Question #4: Shay used the following descriptors to make clear what a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ at WHFC (**The Core**) looks, sounds, and feels like. Can you think of other descriptors for a fully devoted follower of Christ? Can you share a Scripture passage(s) or testimony which illustrates any of these descriptors or another descriptor you have provided?

- a. I say no to other activities and plans to prioritize my church family.
- b. I serve and give when it is not convenient or affordable.
- c. I think about the future of my church long after I am gone.
- d. I take personal responsibility for the success of my church.

Question #5: Shay stated, “The sustainability of the local church rests in the sacrifice of the saints.”

What did Shay mean by this statement?

Possible answers: Our local church can only thrive and fully express Jesus Christ when all the members of the Body are fully functioning, participating, and contributing their portion of Christ.

Question #6: What did Shay state it would require of you to take the next step, from one stage to another stage (from the Community to the Crowd, from the Crowd to the Congregation, from the Congregation to the Committed, and from the Committed to the Core), in the spiritual journey of becoming a fully devoted follower of Christ?

Possible answers: Shay stated it would take Sacrifice and Faithfulness. It’s going to cost you. God uses sacrifice to advance the gospel and His kingdom on the earth (Romans 12:1-2).

Question #7: Shay used the story of Stephen, the first martyr of the church, to illustrate our partnership in the gospel and kingdom life of His church will cost us. Shay went on to say most of us or possibly none of us will have to give our physical lives for the gospel and the expression of the kingdom of God. However, Shay went on to say we will have to make a collective sacrifice. **How do you reconcile the two statements?**

Possible answers: The letter to the Romans, like most of the letters in the New Testament, are written not to individuals but to a local church or community of believers. Many of the personal pronouns, including in

Romans 12:1-2, are in the possessive plural "YOU ALL" not the individual "YOU." While the responsibility to participate in the life of the church, to pursue growth in Christ together with other believers, and to share your portion of Christ with the church is *individual*, the living sacrifice we offer to the Lord is *corporate*, as one Body in Christ (Romans 12:4-5).

Question #8: The worship song [*Called Me Higher*](#) by the group All My Sons and Daughters seemed highly appropriate for us to sing in the final installment of the Next Steps sermon series. As you reflect on the lyrics, what is the next step, the higher step, the deeper step which the Lord is calling and leading you towards? Our church towards?

I could just sit
I could just sit and wait for all your goodness
Hope to feel your presence
And I could just stay
I could just stay right where I am and hope to feel you
Hope to feel something again

And I could hold on
I could hold on to who I am and never let You change me from the inside
And I could be safe
I could be safe here in Your arms and never leave home
Never let these walls down

But you have called me higher
You have called me deeper
And I will go where you will lead me Lord
You have called me higher
You have called me deeper
And I will go where you lead me Lord
Where you lead me
Where you lead me Lord

And I will be Yours
I will be Yours for all my life
So let Your mercy light the path before me