

The Parkway Church exists to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ who: delight in Him, display His love to one another, and declare Him to the world.

What does it mean to be catholic?

“We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church” - The Nicene Creed (381 AD)

Καθολικός (*katholikos*) = “whole, universal”

Roman ≠ catholic

Kingdom-mindedness / biblical catholicity means caring more about the success of *the* Church than *this* church

I. Theological Foundations (ecclesiology)

A. The Church & churches

1. The church local = The Parkway Church

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. (1 Corinthians 12:27)

2. The church universal (catholic) = all Christians of all time in all places

Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her. (Ephesians 5:25b)

“We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church” - The Nicene Creed (381 AD)

B. What makes the Church catholic (universal)?

1. Because our God is the Lord of *all* time

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. (1 Timothy 1:17)

2. Because our God is the Lord of *all* the earth

Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is passing over before you into the Jordan. (Joshua 3:11)

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. (Psalm 24:1)

3. Because the inheritance of God's people is the *whole* earth

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. (Romans 4:13)

4. Because the people of God comes from *every* tribe, language, people, and nation

Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. (Revelation 5:9)

C. The Mission of the Church

↓ *Go therefore and
make disciples of all nations,*

↑ *baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

↑ *teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20a)*

II. How to be Kingdom-Minded

1. Centralize the gospel

¹ *Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you...³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:1, 3)*

[Jesus] went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom. (Matthew 4:23)

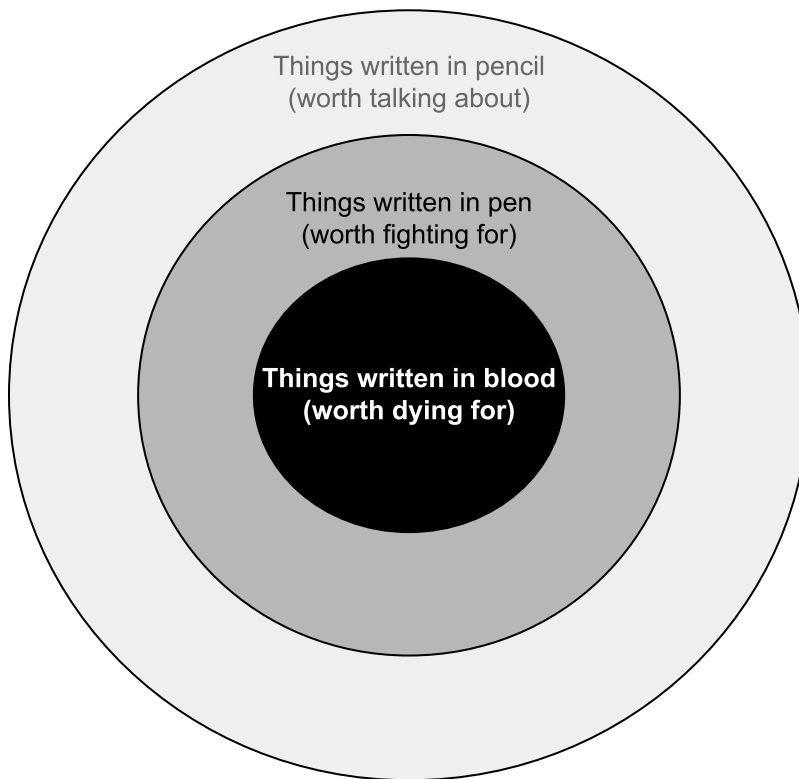
2. Be serious about theology

For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. (2 John 1:8)

3. Share the Mission / Cooperate Wisely

⁶ Send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. ⁷ For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. ⁸ Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth. (3 John 6-8)

- Theological Triage
 - Things written in blood: what separates Christians from non-Christians
 - Things written in pen: what separates Christians from Christians
 - Things written in pencil: what shouldn't separate at all



4. Lift up and learn from faithful churches

Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. (2 Thessalonians 1:4)

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. (Ephesians 1:15-16)

5. See & celebrate the success of other churches/ the Church

³ *We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶ which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing* (Colossians 1:3-6a)

6. Pray for other churches/ the Church

To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:18b)

7. Sacrifice for other churches/ the Church

¹⁶ *But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same earnest care I have for you...¹⁸ We are sending the brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel.* (2 Corinthians 8:16, 18)

²⁵ *At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. ²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.* (Romans 15:25-26)