

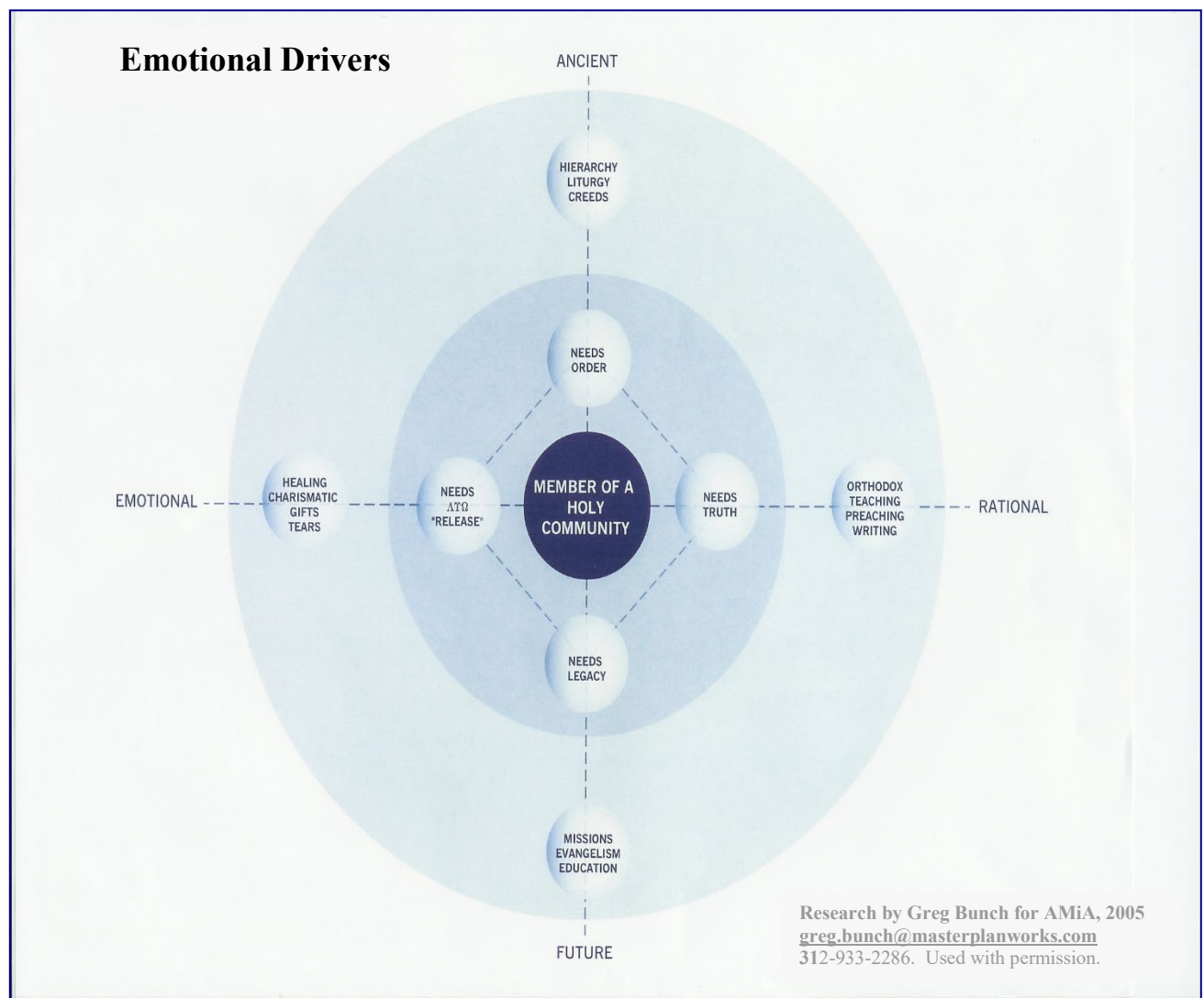
What Do You Believe?

14 BASIC BELIEFS¹, True or False Questions

1. The bible is totally accurate in all its teachings. (2 Tim 3:16)
2. You personally have a responsibility to tell others about your religious beliefs. (Matt 5:16)
3. The devil, or Satan, is not a living being but is a symbol of evil. (Luke 4:2-6)
4. If a person is generally good or does enough good things for others during their life, they will earn a place in Heaven. (Romans 3:23)
5. When He lived on earth, Jesus Christ was human and committed sins, like other people. (Heb 4:15)
6. It does not matter what religious faith you follow because they all teach the same lessons. (John 14:6)
7. The Holy Spirit is a symbol of God's presence or power but is not a living entity. (John 1:32)
8. After He was crucified and died, Jesus Christ did not return to life physically. (John 20: 24-25)
9. The Bible teaches that God helps those who help themselves. (Not in the bible).
10. All people will experience the same outcome after death, regardless of their religious beliefs. (Rev 20:15)
11. There are some crimes, sins, or other things that people might do that cannot be forgiven by God. (Luke 12:10 – only unforgiveable sin).
12. Angels exist and influence people's lives. (Luke 1:32)
13. God originally created the universe. (Genesis 1:1)
14. The whole idea of sin is outdated. (Watch the news).

¹ Materials adopted from information compiled by The Barna Group, Ltd., 1957 Eastman Ave. Ste B, Ventura, California 93003, www.barna.org

Emotional Drivers Map



Emotional Drivers and Church Growth

What is an Emotional Driver?

An emotional driver is what a person uses to make a decision. It is defined as emotional, because most people tend to make decisions based on what they feel. Reason is certainly a part of the equations, but emotion, passion, and feelings are where we make decisions.

The researchers for this diagram interviewed a large cross section of laity (no clergy) to determine what motivated them to leave one church and choose another. Specifically, they were talking to Episcopalians who elected to leave ECUSA for another expression of Anglicanism in North America. The interviews identified four main emotional drivers, or motivating reasons, for why they left.

Emotional Driver Number One – Truth

Those leaving ECUSA were driven by a desire to align with the truth of the Gospel. They were tired of compromise and the lack of clarity regarding the clear teaching of Scripture. The laity expressed deep disappointment with so many clergy and bishops who winked at sin and dismissed the Scriptures as mere opinions of man. What they were seeking was a church that is confident in the authority of Scriptures and the message of salvation in Christ alone. They were not interested in the recent innovations of ECUSA and saw them as a departure from the truth.

In addition to desiring TRUTH, they were willing to pay a high price to stand for the truth of the Gospel without compromise. They were also willing to leave behind a host of tangible things: property, bank accounts, endowments, and many other benefits or privileges within the institutional structure (pension fund, camps, conference centers, seminaries, etc.). The price of compromise is just too high, and the Gospel is too important.

Emotional Driver Number Two – Encounter

A large percentage of those interviewed wanted the church to fully embrace the Holy Spirit. Many had been touched powerfully by the Lord with healings, release from bondage, addiction, inner wounds, rejection, and the like. God's power had broken into their lives. They were looking for a church that embraced these ministries of power as NORMAL in the life of the community of faith. They wanted their church to enjoy a new-found freedom in worship, singing, music, dance, prophecy, healing, evangelism, and lay ministry.

Emotional Driver Number Three – Ancient

Although there was a strong desire for encounter, there was also a high value for the ANCIENT; that which is connected to the historic church. They did not want to abandon the structures of the Church. They wanted bishops, dioceses, the Prayer Book, liturgy, the ancient creeds of the Church, the sacraments of the Church, and the centrality of Eucharist in worship. The vestments, the seasons of the year, the lectionary were all of value and priority for them in church. There was even a strong sense that these were safeguards against imbalance and error or over-emotionalism.

Emotional Driver Number Four – Legacy

In the interviews there was a high value to leave behind, for future generations, something of great value. They were not interested in separating into a small enclave of orthodoxy. Their heart held a vision for their church that was evangelistic. They wanted to leave the current structure that exists mostly to perpetuate itself and embrace the Great Commission.

At The Center – A Holy Community

At the center of the emotional map in the diagram is a Holy Community. All four of the emotional drivers point inward to a people of God who seek a Holy and Righteous God and want to be transformed into His image. The truth, the encounter, the structure, and the legacy are connected in the middle by a faithful and faith-filled community of believers.

Conclusions from this Research

1. If you offer the truth, you will attract people – growth.
2. People are willing to pay a price and stand for the truth.
3. Compromise leads to decline – people leave.
4. People want to encounter God.
5. When people leave, they do not want to return.
6. Churches that embrace the Holy Spirit touch lives powerfully
7. People do not want to go non-denominational or Pentecostal.
8. People like the ancient structures of the Anglican Church
9. People like and prefer Anglican worship.
10. People want to build a legacy for those who follow.
11. People want to be involved with evangelism.
12. People want to be with like-minded believers and to pursue Holiness.
13. People are leaving because the truth is not embraced.
14. People are leaving because the Holy Spirit is quenched.

15. People are leaving because leadership is compromised.
16. People are leaving because there is no real mission.

