**WOODLANDS CHURCH**

**17th September 2017. Calling**

**Discussion notes: Hospital, Bride, Army. Ephesians 4:16 5:29-33, 6:10-20**

What is the call of the Church? Are we to be an army, bringing God’s kingdom in? Are we to be a hospital, a place of healing? Or are we the bride of Christ, called as worshippers?

Edmund Clowney ( ‘Biblical Interpretation and the Church’) writes of threefold goals of biblical ministry as ministering to God through worship (Rom 15:8-16), to minister and serve one another through Christian nurture (Eph 4:12-26), and to minister and serve the world through witness (Matt 28:18-20). Clowney argues that all of these goals are really only one goal, one calling and fundamental purpose of the church.

1. Which of the pictures above relates best to which of Clowney’s categories? Which of the descriptions of the Church do you feel most resonance with?
2. What would you describe as the distinctive of the Church when it looks most like the bride of Christ?
3. What would you describe as the distinctive of the church when it looks most like an army, or a hospital? How are those aspects practiced in your experience?
4. How would you encourage people who are passionate about worship, people who are passionate about evangelism and people passionate about healing to honour value and work with one another?
5. How do those three dynamics integrate as one calling?

As a Church we want to reach out to those who are not part of the family of God and invite them to join us. We also want to enjoy an intimacy with God in worship. What should we consider in creating contents for seekers and believers to gather in the same service?