

## Avery Dulles' Models of Church

### Summarized by Carlus Gupton

1. **Church as Institution** emphasizes stability, tradition, and order as God's system for salvation and community on earth and as God's instrument for discovering, maintaining, and mediating truth.
2. **Church as Mystical Communion** stresses the role of the Spirit in creating a meaningful and spontaneous fellowship. A personal walk with God and the enhancement of relational side of Christian experience is the ultimate goal of this model.
3. **Church as Sacrament** celebrates the intersection between the human and divine.
4. **Church as Herald** puts the priority on proclaiming the good news. The church is most faithful when there is an abundance of evangelistic efforts.
5. **Church as Servant** seeks to touch the suffering world at the points of greatest need. The church is truest to its calling when it is feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, etc.

Dulles, Models of the Church

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Dr. Carlus Gupton in Church Identity, Church Leadership, Church Leadership and Renewal, Church Renewal, Church Revitalization, Congregational Culture, Ecclesiology