

20 Questions to Determine Your Church's Health

Here's a tool to help you think about your church's health. For each question, circle the number that best applies to your church-with 1 meaning, "We haven't thought about it yet," and 5 meaning, "We are in excellent shape in this area."

1. Do we have a clear and common vision?

Biblical, widely known, and owned by our people, articulated with clarity and redundancy by leadership.

1 2 3 4 5

2. Is there purposeful direction in our activities?

Our leadership concentrates on focused and purposeful programming rather than "We've always done it this way."

1 2 3 4 5

3. Is the Word of God seen as the basis of authority?

There is an attempt to get beyond our local prejudices and traditions to biblical truth. Our classes and groups have the Bible as the center of our curriculum.

1 2 3 4 5

4. Do our public celebrations inspire true worship?

The music and sermons glorify Christ. The emphasis is more on content than style. The cross and life in Christ are emphasized. There is a sense of reverence for God in his holiness.

1 2 3 4 5

5. Does our church present a positive gospel message?

Sin is faced squarely, but there is an emphasis on grace and forgiveness. Our corporate times leave people with something to help them face the week ahead.

1 2 3 4 5

6. Is there a balance between evangelism and edification?

Spiritual maturation is as important as numerical growth. People are being added to the church by conversion growth, then disciplined in doctrine, spiritual formation, and ministry skills.

1 2 3 4 5

7. Does corporate prayer saturate the life of our church?

Prayers that include adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and intercession are modeled in public services by the leadership. Special corporate prayer services are called for during the year.

1 2 3 4 5

8. Is there concerted effort to bring individuals to maturity?

The overall thrust of the public services, classes, and groups is to help people become mature in Christ.

1 2 3 4 5

9. Do we really reach out to people who visit?

Our people work to make guests feel at home. There are systems whereby people are led into a group or class.

1 2 3 4 5

10. Is our church aware of the world at its door?

We are having a positive impact on our neighborhood and city.

1 2 3 4 5

11. Are we actively pursuing fulfillment of the Great Commission?

Our services reflect concern for the unreached peoples of the world. Missions has a high public profile.

1 2 3 4 5

12. Do we develop leaders?

We involved people in training, both formal and informal. There are structures for discipling existing leaders.

1 2 3 4 5

13. Do our leaders take their responsibilities seriously?

Our leaders hold themselves responsible when asked about current or past wrongs. Leaders are elected on the basis of character first and giftedness second.

1 2 3 4 5

14. Does our church have appropriate structures and exercise wise administration?

There is a clear understanding of the role of the pastor, the board, the staff, the congregation, and the denomination. We think strategically.

1 2 3 4 5

15. Do our congregants have a sense of community?

Despite personal differences there is an undergirding sense of unity. We are family. Many linger after a service in order to visit.

1 2 3 4 5

16. Do we practice accountability and exercise integrity?

Believers understand that commitment to membership demands accountability. The practice of discipline is spelled out in writing.

1 2 3 4 5

17. Do we practice redemptive love?

We follow Jesus' teaching in Matt. 18:15-18 in attempting to free people who are ensnared in sin, with the goal of restoration.

1 2 3 4 5

18. Is confession openly practiced?

Most people seem willing to confess wrongs to God and to one another in an appropriate way. This is a safe place to confess our sins.

1 2 3 4 5

19. Do we network with other congregations?

We work in harmony and participate with our denomination on a district and national basis. We share our resources with local congregations.

1 2 3 4 5

20. Do we live as people of hope and expectation?

We are convinced we are making a difference in our community. We communicate to people their ultimate hope is not in the now but in the return of Christ.

1 2 3 4 5

Scoring

Total your circled numbers following the twenty categories.

85-100 You are a healthy church.

70-84 You are well on the road to health.

55-69 Don't stop now; you have things working for you.

40-54 You need some work, but you've begun- what will be your next step?

Below 40 Yours is not a very healthy church. Don't give in to despair. It's time for the leaders to humble themselves before God and seek renewed direction for this church.

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