

PRINCIPLES FOR CHURCH GROWTH

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CHURCH GROWTH VERSUS CHURCH HEALTH

- A. The early church grew rapidly. They reported converts not crowds. (See Acts 1:5 cf., 2:4; 2:41, 47; 4:4; and 5:14.)
- B. Size alone does not equate to church growth.
- C. Our ultimate task is to create health. Growth follows health.
- D. Health is a matter of church culture, and culture is something that must be intentionally managed.

THINGS THAT MAKE A CHURCH GROW

- A. **#1. Church growth results from the cooperation of the church with God.**
 - 1. Church growth is both human and divine.
 - 2. We know that God wants to save the world (John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9).
 - 3. The ultimate question is whether people want their church to grow and whether they take seriously the great commission.
 - 4. If churches are not growing, it is not the divine side of the equation that is lacking.
- B. **#2. Commitment to the gospel and transformation by the power of God.**
 - 1. A church of 100 where the gospel is preached is better than a gathering of 1,000 where the gospel is not preached.
 - 2. The early church counted converts, not crowds (See Acts 1:5 cf., 2:4; 2:41, 47; 4:4; and 5:14.)
 - 3. Size alone does not equate to church growth.
- C. **#3. Commitment to the diversity of gifts in the body.**
 - 1. Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4
 - 2. Unity
 - 3. Spirit-led vision and leadership
 - 4. Spirit-led and engaged congregation

D. #4 Commitment to love people.

E. #5 Commitment to personal evangelism

1. Every believer must feel both the responsibility and the privilege of being an ambassador for Christ.
2. Everyone has different gifts, but everyone should be involved in evangelism in an identifiable way.

F. #6 Effective evangelistic services

G. #7 Effective teaching environments

H. #8 Effective discipleship and assimilation processes

I. #9 Fellowship

J. #10 Sound administration & accountability

K. #11 An effective ministry model.

1. We must not confuse our message with our method.
2. We must embrace change.
3. Every church is unique and should remain authentic to its unique identity and gifting.

L. #12: Cast a vision beyond your local church.

1. Church growth is not infinitely scalable.
2. Have a broader vision.
3. Grow, plant, support