




Building A Healthy Church

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FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY ENRICHMENT

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Thesis: Healthy Churches are Christian Fellowships and Communities of Faith that function biblically, and those functions are executed faithfully as the culture of the church.

-Carlos D. Williams



Defining Health: That which is free from disease, illness, and sickness. It is soundness, wholeness, correctness, rightness. It involves each part functioning according to its original design. Likewise, healthy churches are churches that are free from disease, illness, and sickness, namely, the sickness of worldly- ascribed standards, traits, and characteristics.

Theological Foundation of Healthy Churches

- Acts 20:28
- Colossians 1:18
- Matthew 16:18
- Ephesians 4:15-16
- Titus 2:1

Empowering Leadership

Are your leaders focused on equipping believers for ministry?

Gift-based Ministry

Are tasks in your church distributed according to the criterion of gifting?

Passionate Spirituality

Is the spiritual life of the church members characterized by passion?

Effective Structures

Do the structures of your church contribute to growth?

EIGHT HEALTH SYSTEMS

Inspiring Worship Service

Are your worship services an inspiring experience for the members?

Holistic Small Groups

Do the small groups address the life issues of their members?

Need-oriented Evangelism

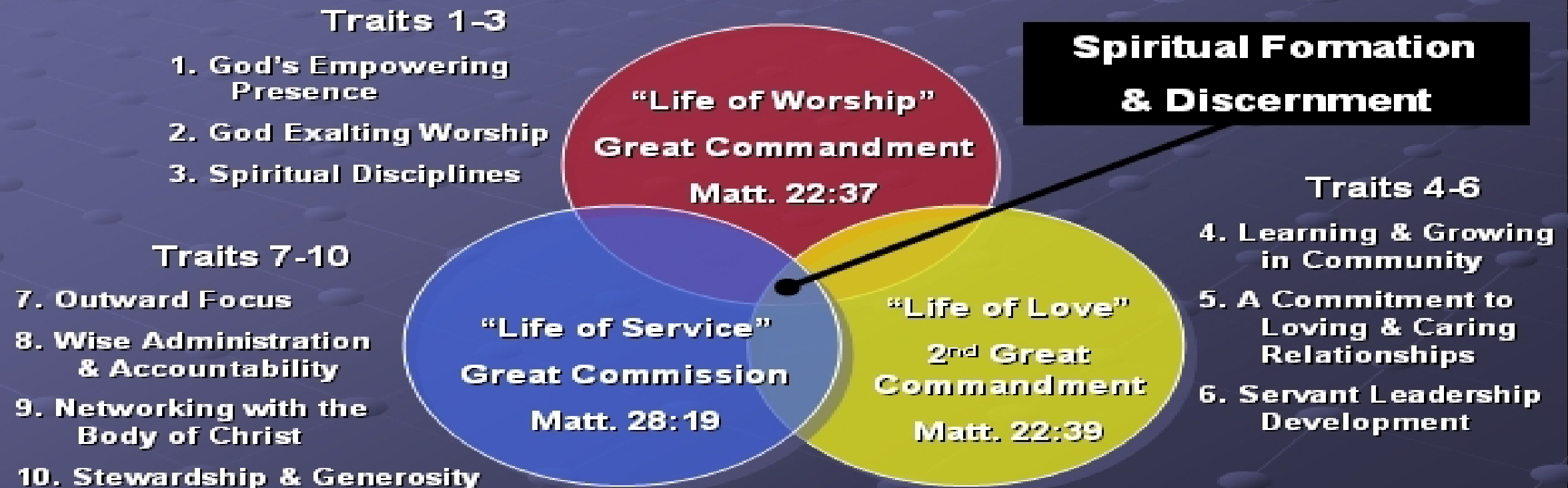
Are the evangelistic activities related to the needs of those you are trying to win?

Loving Relationships

Are the relationships of the members characterized by love?

A Model of Church Health

A Holistic Approach to Church Health



Mark One: Expository Preaching

- Expository Preaching/Teaching takes a passage of scripture and after determining its meaning, it explains the passage and makes the meaning the main point of the sermon and makes right application of the passage to the lives of hearers.
 - Nehemiah 8:8, St. Luke 24: 27, 32

Mark Two: Biblical Theology

- Biblical Theology is the study of what the bible says about God and answers the question, what is God like: his nature. It is about the storyline of the bible and how the bible is to be seen as one story. - Titus 2: 1-10

Mark Three: Understanding the Gospel

- The gospel is the good news that the only true God, the just and gracious Creator of the universe, has looked upon hopelessly sinful men and women and has sent his son, Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, to bear his wrath against sin through his substitutionary death on the cross and to show his power over sin and death in the resurrection from the grave, so that everyone who turns from their sin and themselves and trust in Jesus alone as Savior and Lord will be reconciled to God forever. Rom. 3:23, 5:12-21

-David Platt

Mark Four: Conversion

- This mark deals with the internal change (John 3, Acts 9) and new life that is given to us by the regenerative power of the Holy Spirit. The change involves turning from our sin and turning to God. It involves repenting of our sins and following God. “Conversion is the change of heart toward God (repentance) and belief and trust in Christ and his word (faith). –Eph. 2:5, Jn. 3:16

Mark Five: Evangelism

- Evangelism is the verbal proclamation and declaration of the gospel (good news). It also includes being able to both articulate it and explain it. It involves being able to defend it also.
 - Matthew 28:19-20, 1 Peter 3:15-16

Mark Six: Membership

- Biblical membership is a commitment, and it considers that each member has a personal responsibility and part of that responsibility is to those who are also a part of that fellowship or community.
-Acts 2:42-47, Matthew 18:17-19

Mark Seven: Discipline

- This is the process of correcting sin in the fellowship. Its purpose is to protect Christ's name that the church bears, rescue the believer from sin, create fear among the church members to see the seriousness of sin, and be a demonstration of love.
-Matthew 18:15-20, 1 Cor. 5:1-1

Mark Eight: Discipleship

- Discipleship is an integral part of the 2nd purpose of the church which is nurture and edification. It involves providing growth opportunities for its members through the study of God's word and modeling the ways of Christ.
 - St. Matthew 28:20; Pet. 3:18

Mark Nine: Biblical Leadership

- This mark assumes that the church has a plurality of leaders called either elders, overseers, bishops, or pastors who are in charge of the oversight of the church.
 - I Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; Acts 20:28, I Tim. 5:17