

Healthy Church Assessment

1. Prayer: Jesus said, "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'" **Matthew 21:13**

<p>Satan loves prayerlessness. He works hard to keep individuals from praying and to keep congregations from praying. He would prefer that God's children would drift towards self-dependence. When corporate prayer times are organized for the congregation, very few people attend. Prayer is not a way of life, but actually a departure from what is normal. Busy people don't have time to pray, distracted people simply cannot pray, and self-righteous people see no need to pray.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	<p>God intended prayer to enhance the intimacy with His children. He has promised that He will hear and answer our prayers. He has specifically asked His people to pray. Prayer needs to be our first response in every situation. It simply needs to be part of our church culture.</p>
	<p>Prayer simply does not happen, If it ever does occur, it is quick and short. We have other things to do.</p>	<p>Prayer is haphazard. it is seldom mentioned and never endorsed.</p>	<p>Prayer is given token attention. We pray because we know that is what we need to do.</p>	<p>Prayer is encouraged. Classes are offered on prayer. There is a growing interest in corporate prayer.</p>	<p>Prayer is regularly taught and modeled. The church enjoys praying together often. It is our way of life.</p>	
<p>Prayer Time Attendance Compared to Worship Attendance</p>	1% or less	3%	5%	10%	15% +	<p>Recommended Reading: "Threshold" by Paul Covert</p>

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2. Pursuers of Jesus: Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." **Mark 12:30**

Intimacy with Jesus is rare. Most people in the congregation limited their exposure to spiritual things to worship gatherings. Intimacy with Jesus is not happening, and it is not modeled. The vast majority of people in the church seldom open their Bibles outside of church services and typically pray only when there is some great need. In their minds, Jesus is not worth pursuing passionately.	1	2	3	4	5	Intimacy with Jesus is taught and modeled in such a way that pursuing Him is expected and desired by most in the congregation. Since pursuing Jesus is such a high priority, distractions and schedules do not interfere with this pursuit. There is such a hunger and thirst for intimacy with Jesus that it becomes contagious throughout the congregation.
	Very few in the church see a need to interrupt their lives with spending quality time with Jesus.	Some people are growing in their passion for Jesus, but it is very rare.	There is an expectation that everyone needs to spend quality time with Jesus daily, but most people still ignore the need.	There is a growing group of people in the church who are understanding that a relationship with Jesus is extremely important.	There is an excitement among the people for spending quality time with Jesus and learning from Him.	
% of Worship Attendance Daily Pursuing Jesus	10%	20%	30%	40%	50% +	Recommended Reading: "The Pursuit of Passion" by Dean Trune

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3. Evangelism: Jesus said, "'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Mark 16:15

<p>Sharing Jesus is unnatural. Satan has convinced most in the congregation that sharing of one's faith with the unchurched or unbelievers is not necessary, it's dangerous, and it's frightful. As a result, only some of the paid staff have a sense of evangelizing others. If any interest in impacting others spiritually is present, it normally is limited to inviting the unchurched to a worship service, but individual lives are not attracting anyone to Jesus.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	<p>Sharing Jesus happens regularly, easily, and naturally. People are trained in the area of evangelism, and it is modeled for them regularly. There is a regular flow of people being added to the kingdom, and most people in the congregation place a high priority on connecting with the unchurched and unbelievers. They are constantly looking for opportunities to share their faith in Jesus to whomever God brings into their lives.</p>
	<p>Evangelism is essentially nonexistent in the local body of believers.</p>	<p>Evangelism is avoided by the vast majority of believers in the church.</p>	<p>There is a small interest in sharing one's faith, but no effective training is offered.</p>	<p>People are beginning to overcome Satan's lies about evangelism, and people are beginning to desire to do it.</p>	<p>Many people in the church have received some training on evangelism, and the fruit from that is seen regularly.</p>	
<p>Converts Annually as a % of Worship Attendance</p>	1% or less	3%	5%	7%	10% +	<p>Recommended Reading:</p>

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4. Discipleship: Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," **Matthew 28:19**

	1	2	3	4	5	
Discipleship is primarily confined to group gatherings. It is expected that worship services and small groups will produce disciples of Jesus in spite of failing to do so in the past. The congregation is so weak on discipling that it struggles to see any spiritual maturing taking place within its members. As a result, it focuses on the outer person in an effort to conform everyone to some religious standard.	Extremely few are actually growing spiritually.	Some are growing spiritually, but little time and effort is devoted to investing in the spiritual lives of others.	It is small, but a number of maturing disciples are beginning to invest in the lives of others spiritually.	Spiritual maturity is beginning to take root in more people. A desire to spiritually invest in others is spreading.	It is expected that every disciple of Jesus will invest in others spiritually and is trained to do so.	A discipleship culture is further established when more of the congregation focuses on being a disciple and pouring what he/she lives into the life of another intentionally. This discipleship is obedience based opposed to knowledge based. This includes reading, studying, memorizing, meditating on God's Word, along with prayer, interceding for others, listening to God, fasting, and personal worship. The congregation naturally produces disciples of Jesus by focusing on the inner person, and teaches disciples how to reproduce themselves in others.
% of Worship Attendance Involved in Accountable Discipling Relationships	1% or less	5%	10%	15%	20% +	Recommended Reading: From Megachurch to Multiplication by Chris Galanos, Spent Matches by Roy Moran

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5. Biblical Grace and Truth are Taught: The apostle John writes, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. **John 1:14**

Satan loves it when truth is presented legalistically and grace is ignored. The church has a tendency to "beat up" people with the truth and forget about grace. To show no mercy or grace is to show no love. The religious leaders of Jesus' day operated with such legalism that condemnation was the automatic response. Consider the woman caught in the act of adultery in John 8. Their interpretation of truth was all that mattered. A congregation who follows this format, demands that obedience be absolutely followed by very imperfect people.	1	2	3	4	5	Whenever grace and truth are used to describe Jesus, grace is always listed first. Our obedience to truth is impossible for imperfect people. Wise leaders and teaches understand this principle and bless people with grace. Broken and sinful people are not reminded how broken and sinful they are, but they are introduced to the saving power of Jesus' blood. Jesus is the primary focus, not the sinfulness of the people. Grace and truth taught in the proper balance brings the "family" together.
	Truth is in charge and grace seldom receives a vote. Satan deceives in helping people think this is righteous.	Grace is not valued. It most often shows up as the exception to the rule, but not the norm. Lifeless Love is buried deep beneath truth.	Grace is followed more often but truth remains in the dominate position. Jesus' love is seldom given or experienced.	People are beginning to show more grace and the truth is more often shared in love. Some are starting to experience love in tangible ways.	People are realizing the extravagant grace they have received and are sharing it. This allows people to be led to truth.	

Grace and truth follow the model that Jesus lived and taught?

Never

Seldom

Sometimes

Often

Always

Recommended Reading:
"Grace" by Max Lucado

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6. Humility: Jesus said, "For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. **Matthew 23:12**

<p>Humility is not present where arrogance and pride are allowed to dominate our self-worth. Scripture is very clear (Proverbs 3:34, James 4:6, I Peter 5:5) that God opposes the proud. A congregation simply cannot be healthy in any way when God is opposing it. Real humility is viewed as a sign of weakness and something to be avoided. This view does not line up with Scripture, but the proud see this as a way to maintain control and to dominate instead of lead.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	<p>We will never be more like Jesus than when we exhibit true humility toward God and toward others. Humility is God's way of receiving His blessing. Humility makes us vulnerable and we do not mind being viewed as a servant. We consider it an honor. Jesus perfectly demonstrated humility and refused all temptation to be self-centered and self-serving. He is the perfect leader to study and to follow His example.</p>
	<p>Arrogance and pride dominate all actions because they dominate our souls. Humility is not even considered.</p>	<p>The humility of Jesus is seldom acknowledged or followed, because of the blindness that arrogance and pride produce.</p>	<p>Humility is seen as something desired, but arrogance and pride still maintain a stronghold in the minds of the people.</p>	<p>Humility is encouraged and more often observed, but arrogance and pride have a way of slipping into our thought patterns.</p>	<p>Regardless of the situation or circumstance, humility is greatly valued and shown. Arrogance and pride are not allowed a seat at the table.</p>	
<p>Humility is modeled and encouraged by everyone.</p>	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Always	<p>Recommended Reading: "Humility" by Andrew Murray</p>

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7. Rest: Jesus said, "Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." **Mark 6:31** He also said, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." **Matthew 11:29**

<p>Activity and busyness in this body of believers receives the highest priority. It is not only encouraged, but it expected. Soul care and family care are very low on the priority chart. The thought is, "This is for Jesus so nothing else is more important." Leaders may be doing well at leading, but their souls and their families are suffering, often secretly screaming for attention. People are constantly weary but it is viewed as a badge of honor. Jesus example of providing rest is totally ignored and missed. Burn out is a common occurrence.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	<p>Good spiritual health is only possible when rhythms of rest are embraced. The highest effectiveness in living for Jesus comes from a position of regular rest and refreshment. Rest is not confused with laziness, but deeply connected with wisdom. People listen and wisely respond to the cries of their souls for regular Sabbath rest. God created all of us to need periods of regular rest. To ignore the need for rest is to question the wisdom of our Designer.</p>
	<p>Weariness is the standard. The idea is, "If you are not weary or tired, you are not doing your job." Burnout is present but ignored.</p>	<p>Sabbath rest is discussed but never encouraged or seen as a legitimate need. The focus is on "get it done", not on honoring Jesus well.</p>	<p>Occasionally a retreat is provided, but rest is not included. They can focus on doing but not resting. As a result, rest remains misunderstood.</p>	<p>Weariness is seen as important but not necessary. When it is observed, it is lovingly confronted but seldom enforced.</p>	<p>Rest is considered a value to embrace. Accountability is in place to ensure that the proper rhythms of rest are firmly in place.</p>	
<p>Rhythms of rest is expected, demanded, and Jesus is the model.</p>	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Always	<p>Recommended Reading: "Rhythms of Rest" by Shelly Miller</p>

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8. Emotional Health: Jesus said, "A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart." NLT Luke 6:45 Jesus freely and consistently shared His emotions.

<p>Often we allow our emotions to separate us from God and to build distance between us and others. Satan loves to have us believe lies about our emotions and ignore what God says we are. We often believe we need to prove ourselves, please people, hide our sadness, and hide our flaws. We find it acceptable to keep others at a distance so they will not find out what is going on inside of us, to hold grudges, to blame others, to always be right, and to be okay with our poor self-image. We like to punish others for how we feel about ourselves, and we "act out" our emotions recklessly.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	<p>Jesus did not hide His emotions, but He revealed them often. Consider how He wept, expressed joy, grieved, showed sadness, felt compassion, showed sorrow, felt distress, showed astonishment, and displayed anger over unrighteousness. He believed what God said about Him and not the lies Satan threw at Him. He was totally courageous emotionally, and He lived with no fear of people. Our emotions must be under the absolute control of the Holy Spirit. Our spiritual health and emotional healthy are deeply connected.</p>
	<p>People typically keep others at a distance and desperately hide what is really going on inside.</p>	<p>People have a difficult time opening up their hearts, but their hiddenness deeply impacts the body of believers negatively.</p>	<p>Vulnerability is beginning to be seen more often, but many are struggling to overcome their fear of people and they distrust of God.</p>	<p>People are doing well at being honest about their emotions. Relationships are beginning to go deeper. When honesty is seen, it is refreshing.</p>	<p>People are totally honest about their emotions, and they handle their emotions like Jesus did. There is growing trust in God to be vulnerable.</p>	
<p>Emotions are consistent with Scripture, and they follow Jesus' sinless examples.</p>	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Always	<p>Recommended Reading: "The Emotionally Healthy Church" by Pete Scazzero</p>

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9. Love one another: Jesus said, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35

<p>The church is at its weakest when there is a lack of selfless love within the local body of believers. Cliques and division destroy the unity through which God can work. The message of the cross is tainted when non-love or self-centeredness is allowed to exist in the Body of Christ. The easiest thing to do in our relationships with others is to not love one another. We naturally drift effortlessly toward non-love.</p> <p>Our ability to forgive is totally dependent upon our love for God and our love for others. Our pride and arrogance will always war against our desire to love others, especially those who are different than us.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	<p>Our ability to love others unconditionally is tied to our love for God and our desire to live in obedience to Him. Loving others is a decision we all must make in order to represent Him well and to glorify Him. The Holy Spirit works in each one of us to strengthen our love for God and one another. Love happens naturally within this body of believers.</p>
<p>People genuinely sense a Jesus' love with one another.</p>	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Always	<p>Recommended Reading: "A Love Worth Giving" by Max Lucado</p>

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10. Generous Outreach: Jesus said, "Give and it will be given to you." **Luke 6:38A** Paul said, "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share." **I Timothy 6:1**

	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>Fear says that we must limit our giving so that we will make sure we have enough to pay our obligations. We don't need to live by faith; we simply need common sense. Being tight-fisted givers allows us to have what we need for the future. Selfish giving insures that we will have enough for the future. God simply cannot expect us to be as generous as He is. There is a limit to His resources which naturally means there is a limit to His ability to provide for us.</p>	<p>Attitude: We cannot afford to give anything.</p>	<p>Attitude: We have to be cautious in our giving.</p>	<p>Attitude: We give sparingly.</p>	<p>Attitude: We give generously at times.</p>	<p>Attitude: We always give generously.</p>	<p>How much we generously give to missions and to our community is dependent upon how much we want to share God's love to a world lost and dying. We don't give out of our abundance. We give sacrificially because that is what in love with Jesus do. Jesus tells us, "<i>Give and it will be given to us. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap.</i>" Luke 6:38A We can afford to be generous, because we serve a God who has no limits on His resources.</p>
<p>The percent of the annual budget that is given away generously.</p>	<p>1% of less</p>	<p>1% to 4%</p>	<p>4% to 7%</p>	<p>7% to 10%</p>	<p>10% plus</p>	<p>Recommended Reading: "Generous Living" by Ron Blue</p>

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11. Joy: Jesus said "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." **John 15:11**

<p>There simply appears to be a lack of joy among the family of believers. The congregation is dominated by anxiousness and fear and the joy that comes from Jesus seems to be missing. There is no joy in worship, no joy in teachings, and no joy in fellowship. This lack of joy will not create a desire for others to become a part of this family.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	<p>Joy appears to be the prevailing attitude among the family of believers. Joy is seen in every aspect of the church and even in the midst of troubling times, because people remain focused on Him. This is not the fun that comes from humor, but the joy that comes from knowing Jesus and trusting Him for all things.</p>
	<p>Joy is seldom seen or experienced.</p>	<p>Joy is seen but in very few people.</p>	<p>A few people are living a joy filled life.</p>	<p>Many people are beginning to experience a more consistent joy in their lives.</p>	<p>The Joy of Jesus is very real and evident among us.</p>	
<p>Jesus' joy is lived out as He intended and commanded.</p>	<p>Never</p>	<p>Seldom</p>	<p>Sometimes</p>	<p>Often</p>	<p>Always</p>	<p>Recommended Reading: Joy Fueled by White, Daniels, and Smith</p>

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12. Servant Leadership: Jesus said, "The greatest among you will be your servant." **Matthew 23:11**

Leaders choose to lead with heavy authority and power, rule over others with dominance and dictatorial thinking. Control is what's necessary to accomplish what is best to steer the congregation in the right direction. Servant leadership is a sign of weakness and wavering authority. Strong leaders take total charge of every situation and guide it through to the desired outcome, no matter what the people make think or need. Leading with absolute power is the only way to achieve what God is leading us to achieve.	1	2	3	4	5	Jesus modeled servant leadership and He accomplished everything that God wanted Him to accomplish. Servant leadership draws people to a common goal or objective. The humility demonstrated in servant leadership feeds people the desire to pursue humility themselves. Leading with a spirit of humility brings confidence in those being led that God is moving among them. God knows how to shower grace upon those who are acting with a spirit of humility.
	Leaders are definitely not serving.	Leaders seldom serve anyone outside of the leadership team.	The leadership team is showing some faint signs of wanting to serve the people they lead.	Some leaders are setting a good example of serving.	The leadership team is effectively setting the example of serving others.	
Those who lead ministries do so with a servant's heart.	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Always	Recommended Reading: "Servant Leadership" by Blanchard and Hodges

Leaders' Average Score	
Non-leaders' Average Score	
Overall Average Score	

	Scores
Healthy Church	51 to 60
Semi-Healthy Church	41 to 50
Unhealthy but Hopeful Church	31 to 40
Unhealthy and Discouraging Church	21 to 30
Unhealthy and Depressing Church	0 to 20

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