

Ten Characteristics of a Missional Church

TRADITIONAL	CONTEMPORARY	MISSIONAL
Unintentional Evangelism & Unnatural Means	Intentional Evangelism & Unnatural Means	Intentional Evangelism & Natural Means
Illustrated by Churches of Pergamum (heretical) and Thyatira (liberal)	Illustrated by Churches of Ephesus (habitual) and Laodicea (lukewarm)	Illustrated by Churches of Smyrna (persecuted) and Philadelphia (faithful)
1. Has a fairly low view of the authority and prominence of Scripture.	1. Committed to the use of the Bible with a medium view of Scripture's authority and prominence.	1. Committed to the authoritative, infallible, inerrant, inspired Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:14-17; Acts 2:42). The authority of all missionary work is founded in the truth that God has a clear word to communicate to the world.
2. Ambiguity concerning the nature and outcome of the gospel.	2. Understands that the gospel is essential to the salvation of mankind.	2. Understands the centrality of the gospel in all aspects of a person's life (1 Cor. 15:1-4; 2:2; Gal. 6:14)
3. Sends money to missionaries in foreign countries if it is convenient.	3. Supportive of mission works. Has a program of missions alongside numerous activities of the church.	3. Sent by God as missionaries in their own culture (Mt. 4:19; John 20:21; Acts 16:20; 17:6) and to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)
4. Focus is on sustaining the church's presence in the community.	4. Focus is on the growth and promotion of the local assembly.	4. Boldly & intentionally promotes the gospel through church planting globally, collaborative expressions of mercy and generosity.
5. Dependent upon pastors and staff to evangelize the lost.	5. Dependent upon altar call and big attractational events as its main tool for evangelization.	5. Dependent upon Holy Spirit to use individual as agents for evangelizing (Acts 1:8).
6. Uses tradition, denomination and family ties to attract and keep members.	6. Depends on marketing techniques & business principles to draw people to a corporate gathering.	6. Relationships and sacrificial love are the expressions to others in their journey toward faith (Matt. 5:13-16, John 15:12-17, 1 John 4:19-21).
7. The goal is to increase attendance.	7. The goal is to produce salvation results.	7. The goal is to help others find Jesus in their own way and timing (1 Cor. 9:20-23).
8. Participants compartmentalize their religion and their lives—generally facades of religious adherence.	8. Participants conform to man-made standards through guilt and pressure. Change is through self-will, not Spirit.	8. Participants are affected in every way through a calling by God to be an agent for the gospel (Acts 4:13, 31-35).
9. Faith is a routine activity that is private and personal.	9. Faith is practiced at the church building during prescribed gathering times.	9. Practices its faith in community—groups of people together (Acts 2:42-45; Phil. 1:27). It seeks to participate in true community like our triune Godhead.
10. Worship is ritualistic.	10. Worship is structured, predictable and orderly.	10. Worships God in an authentic, personal and evangelistic way (John 4:23-24). We worship a Savior who left us here to be captured by His mission.

Identifying Your Church

Determine the kind of church where you worship. Examine the listing of the three kinds of churches: missional, contemporary and traditional. Read the descriptions of the first row across the three churches. As objectively as possible, assign a score for each row in the following manner: Give a value of 5 if a missional church best describes where your church operates in that descriptor; a value of 4 if it is in between missional and contemporary; a value of 3 if it is best described as contemporary; 2 if it is in between contemporary and traditional; and a value of 1 if the category description is most like a traditional church. Repeat this for the 10 rows of statements and place the valuation for each below:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

_____ Total (add all values)

If your value is in between **40 and 50**, your church is making a spiritual impact, is growing rapidly and people are being ministered to in effective ways. Take leaps of faith regularly to stretch the body to its full potential.

If your value is in between **28 and 39**, your church has potential to make a significant spiritual impact in your community. Identify those weak areas and take steps of faith toward the calling of God for your body.

If your value is in between **16 and 27**, your church is average with little spiritual passion and minimal spiritual impact in the community. This church is facing a descent of influence unless it makes significant changes soon.

If your value is in between **5 and 15**, your church is going to either close its doors or fight for survival. A Spirit-led vision to compassionately reach the lost for Christ needs to explode within the leadership and contagiously spread throughout the whole body.

Identify the Top Three Areas for Growth

<u>Areas of Concern:</u>		<u>Corrective Action</u>	
1.	—	1.	—
2.	—	2.	—
3.	—	3.	—