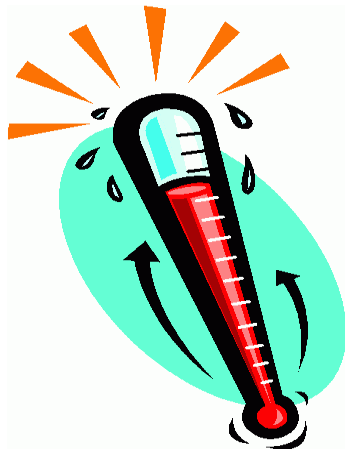


Church Health Class

CRITICAL SIGNALS OF CHURCH HEALTH



STRENGTHENING CHURCH MINISTRIES

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STRENGTHENING CHURCH MINISTRIES



Introduction to: Church Health Class

Note: I would like to give credit to the “Missouri Baptist Health Task Force” for the ideas used in these materials.

Many have said, “Everything rises and falls on leadership.” If this is true then we need to take a serious look at the leadership in our Independent Baptist Churches today in America. Some have said that the greatest single factor in the success of the healthy church is its leadership. This is not only the pastor but the other church leaders as well who can have an impact in the church.

Great leaders have been those with vision, and today we need men with a vision from God, seeking the Lord through prayer and His Word. Also we need men of humility and filled with the Spirit of God to carry out the vision that God has given him. If the pastor and the leadership of the church have no vision or have lost their vision from God for the ministry of the church, then it will have no direction to move forward.

The spiritual condition of the church today can be likened to that of the health condition of individuals today in America. We have a serious problem in America with the health of our people, and most either don't know that they have a problem or don't care if they do. This can describe many churches today in America; they either don't know or don't care if they have a spiritual problem. This all goes back to the leadership of the churches including the pastor and any other leadership within the church.

In the physical sense if we have a pain or change in our body, we will call the doctor immediately. Yet if the church which is the “body” of Christ is not well or have symptoms of poor health they pay no attention to it. Many leaders in the church fail to have the same concern about their church as they would their own bodies. As we need to keep in good health in our own physical condition and not neglect it, so should we make sure that our church's health is doing well also.

There are many “CRITICAL SIGNALS” in the life of a church that could be seen if we only pay attention to them. They may include (prayer, fellowship, outreach, spiritual growth, giving, forgiveness, humility) and many more according to other symptoms.

Through this Church Health Clinic, may you and other leaders find where your church is in regards to its overall health. May each one be completely honest and serious with the answers to the questions. If there are areas in your church that need attention, then by the grace of God may the leadership take the charge in making the appropriate changes for the health of the church.

The prayer life, the outreach ministry, spiritual growth—just to mention a few of the vital signs of a healthy church—must claim our attention if we are to succeed in fulfilling God's intention for us as a church.

Would You Consider Your Church Healthy?

Are there evidences of good church health that everyone can see?

- There is spiritual growth in the membership.
- There is discipleship which is coming from the leadership.
- There is a mission minded service and giving to missions.
- There is a servant's heart to share Jesus with the lost.
- There is numerical growth through people being saved, (not church swapping).
- There is unity within the membership, not uniformity.

These may not be the only signs of a healthy church family, though they are some very basic things that can be analyzed to see if it is a healthy church. If there are many of these things which are not present and functioning, then a church may need to have some type of medicine, therapy or surgery (spiritually speaking).

With this Church Health Class it would be a great time for the pastor and the church leaders to discern the health of their own church family. There may be areas that are in great shape and others that will need some attention. May the Lord help you as the leaders of His local church to be wise and humble enough to see that everyone could be in better health (including our church). May you be encouraged and strengthened to carry on in the areas that your own church is in good health and to be the very best that God wants you to be as His church.

Following are five "health check" pages, one for each of the five functions of the church. Following the directions you will discover how you and your other church leaders see the health of the church in each five categories. May the Lord help you and your church to be in the best health that it can be for the work that He has called your church to accomplish.

P.S. I know that these are the "five purposes" of the church by Warren, but don't let that hinder you from a good evaluation for your church. I am Independent Fundamental Baptist that can use good materials that can help me and others. I hope that you can use grace and find the good in other men's writings also.

Bro. Mickey Muse
SCM

Evangelism/Outreach Checkup

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low; 5 being high), how would you rate your church in leading people to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?

- 1. Majority of members have made a commitment to share their faith in Jesus Christ with others.
- 2. Members pray for spiritually lost people to come to know Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord.
- 3. Members are seeking and inviting the lost and unchurched to become involved in a Bible study group or church activity.
- 4. Members are encouraged to enroll unreached people in Bible School (S.S).
- 5. Church is seeking, discovering, and enlisting members to serve in leadership positions related to outreach and evangelism.
- 6. Church is organized and is training members in how to share their faith with others.
- 7. Church has at least a weekly/monthly visitation program that encourages all members to be involved.
- 8. Members are regularly reminded to be aware of the attendance of people around them who are spiritually lost.
- 9. Church regularly starts new Bible study classes.
- 10. Church conducts special evangelistic events such as revivals, tract blitz, missions conferences, etc.
- 11. Church keeps up to date prospect files for each Sunday School class and department.
- 12. Church has a plan to fully involve new Christians into the life and ministry of the church.

TOTAL EVANGELISM CHECKUP COUNT – Total _____

When you have finished rating each statement, add the column together to discover your diagnosis of your church's Evangelism Health. Notice the thermometer to the right. Where does your church's Evangelism Health fall on the health thermometer?

STRENGTHENING CHURCH MINISTRIES



Healthy Zone

50 to 60 points
Overall good condition. Some changes could be made.

Marginal Zone

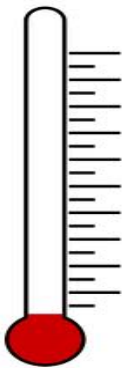
40 to 49 points
Several changes in the church lifestyle need to be made.

Unhealthy Zone

30 to 39 points
Resuscitation may be called for – STAT!

Critical Zone

12 to 29 points
Emergency surgery needs to be done to save the patient.



Fellowship/Friendship Checkup

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low; 5 being high), how would you rate your church in establishing and building relationships with God and His people in and out of the church?

- 1. Church members provide an environment that encourages a sense of belonging and acceptance for everyone.
- 2. Church encourages new believers to unite with the church through baptism.
- 3. Church has created an environment of grace, acceptance, support, and encouragement within/out of the church.
- 4. Church provides opportunities to build relationships through fellowship activities beyond Sunday.
- 5. Church provides opportunities to build fellowship through ongoing outreach, evangelism, and ministry.
- 6. Church provides opportunities to build fellowship through special emphases such as Single Adult Day, Student Day, Senior Adult Day, Friendship Day, etc.
- 7. Church maintains contact with members/prospects who are away from home.
- 8. Church provides opportunities to build relationships by praying together.
- 9. There are regular sermons focusing on the significance of fellowship in the life of the church or input from the pulpit.
- 10. Church has developed strategies for extending fellowship to those who are not part of the church.
- 11. Church is careful not to overburden staff members and volunteers so that there is no time for relationships.
- 12. Church leaders have been trained to handle conflicts constructively.

TOTAL FELLOWSHIP CHECKUP COUNT – Total _____

When you have finished rating each statement, add the column together to discover your diagnosis of your church's Fellowship Health. Notice the thermometer to the right. Where does your church's Fellowship Health fall on the health thermometer?



Healthy Zone

50 to 60 points
Overall good condition. Some changes could be made.

Marginal Zone

40 to 49 points
Several changes in the church lifestyle need to be made.

Unhealthy Zone

30 to 39 points
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Critical Zone

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STRENGTHENING CHURCH MINISTRIES

Ministry/Missions Checkup

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low; 5 being high),
how would you rate your church in ministry/missions?

- 1. Church identifies and informs people about ministry/missions opportunities and their financial needs.
- 2. Church assists individual Christians in identifying their spiritual gifts and abilities for ministry/missions.
- 3. Church is organized for effective ministry to members, prospects, and family members.
- 4. Church equips people for ministry/missions through ongoing Bible study and special training events.
- 5. Church involves individuals & groups in ministry/missions projects through Sunday School classes, or others means.
- 6. Church involves individuals & groups in one on one ministry/missions opportunities through projects and special assignments at home (USA) and overseas.
- 7. Church provides church-wide ministry/missions projects for individual and/or family participation.
- 8. Church demonstrates a climate open to ministry/missions in the local community and area with other IFBC's.
- 9. Church involves individuals and groups in ongoing outreach for the purpose of ministry/missions at home (USA)/overseas.
- 10. Church demonstrates an openness to sponsor/participate in a new church start at home or overseas.
- 11. Church involves individuals and groups in the ministry of intercessory prayer, including prayer for missionaries.
- 12. Church body is regularly involved in mission's education for all age groups in the church.

TOTAL MINISTRY/MISSIONS CHECKUP COUNT – Total

When you have finished rating each statement, add the column together to discover your diagnosis of your church's Ministry/Missions Health. Notice the thermometer to the right. Where does your church's Ministry/Missions Health fall on the health thermometer?

STRENGTHENING CHURCH MINISTRIES



Healthy Zone

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Marginal Zone

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Sunday School/Discipleship Checkup

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low; 5 being high), how would you rate your church in Bible study and Discipleship?

- 1. Pastor regularly emphasizes the importance of Sunday School and Discipleship from the pulpit.
- 2. Sunday School/Discipleship leaders are enlisted early and are given appropriate training.
- 3. Sunday School leaders regularly attend at least a monthly workers meeting.
- 4. A new members class or group is made available to all members as necessary .
- 5. Appropriate Bible study/Discipleship curriculum or materials are provided for each age group.
- 6. Church leadership has a clear plan to help believers mature in Christ.
- 7. Sunday School classes enroll new members regularly and are recognized for doing so.
- 8. Sunday School/Discipleship leaders are enlisted based on their spiritual gifts, abilities and maturity.
- 9. Christian financial management classes are offered as needed.
- 10. Church surveys the needs of members and non-members to determine future ministry goals for the church.
- 11. Biblical giving and the stewardship of life are taught as the norm for believers.
- 12. Opportunities are provided throughout the year for doctrinal and special emphasis Bible studies.

TOTAL SS/DISCIPLESHIP CHECKUP COUNT – Total _____

When you have finished rating each statement, add the column together to discover your diagnosis of your church's SS/Discipleship Health. Notice the thermometer to the right. Where does your church's SS/Discipleship Health fall on the health thermometer?



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Critical Zone

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STRENGTHENING CHURCH MINISTRIES

Worship Checkup

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low; 5 being high),
how would you rate your church in worship?

- 1. Church acknowledges Jesus as Lord of all and responds by expressing love for Him through meaningful worship.
- 2. Church encourages missions giving through faith promise giving and other special mission offerings.
- 3. Church encourages and with resources helps members to experience God's power and presence by seeking Him personally through daily prayer & Bible study.
- 4. Teachers establish an environment in Bible study classes - (S.S.) and departments that lead people to encounter life change with God, during and beyond Bible study sessions.
- 5. Church has examined how well its worship & time(s) fits its members, visitors & has made changes where necessary.
- 6. Leaders are prepared for, and opportunity is given for the spiritually lost to respond to the gospel at every worship service.
- 7. Church regularly involves volunteers in the worship service, both in planning, conducting, and evaluating.
- 8. Church consistently uses a variety of creative elements in worship services such as reading the Bible, different music (not contemporary) sermons outlines, power point, etc.
- 9. Church receives the tithes and offering as an act of worship.
- 10. Church has stewardship/giving emphasis at least once a year.
- 11. Church encourages families to have a daily/weekly "Family Bible Study" time together.
- 12. Church has a system for greeting first time visitors, receiving information from them, and helping them to feel welcome.

TOTAL WORSHIP CHECKUP COUNT – Total _____

When you have finished rating each statement, add the column together to discover your diagnosis of your church's Worship Health. Notice the thermometer to the right. Where does your church's Worship Health fall on the health thermometer?



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Overall good condition. Some changes could be made.

Marginal Zone

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STRENGTHENING CHURCH MINISTRIES

Church Health Record

(CHR)

In the spaces below, write the average score of all your church leadership team for each function. Subtotal the scores and then divide by five to arrive at your total score. Use the thermometer to the right to see the overall health of your church. Spend time discussing each function and specific needs that show up on the checkup sheets. Then write the three top priorities you would like to work on in the coming months.

Evangelism _____

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Sunday School/Discipleship _____

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Fellowship _____

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Ministry/Missions _____

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Worship _____

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Subtotal _____ **divided by 5 =** _____

Overall Health Score _____

Church Name _____



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