

The Intentional Church

*Becoming A Healthy Church Through
Missional Equipping & Spiritual Formation*

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Part One

1. To be healthy, a church must be intentional about:

1.1 Making disciples (unbelief to belief)

1.2 Training disciples (belief to maturity)

1.3 Developing leaders (maturity to leadership)

2. To be intentional about taking people from unbelief to leadership requires an effective plan to do so.

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3. To be intentional about making disciples (unbelief to belief), the church must have:

3.1 A leadership which embraces a missional commitment.

3.2 A pastor who lives missionally among lost people.

3.3 Training which equips its people with evangelistic tools which are both Biblically based and contemporary with the culture.

1) Tools designed with the belief that God does the converting using His tool, the Bible.

2) Tools which are relevant to the culture in which we live

- tract (1-D)
- monologue (2-D)
- dialogue (3-D)

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3) Tools which create a forum to address the questions that non-believers are asking (and do so by allowing for multiple appointment conversations rather than single appointment presentations).

- How can Christians believe that the Bible is God's Word without error?
- How can Christians believe that all people including moral, religious people who are not Christians deserve to be separated from God for all eternity?
- How can Christians believe that of all the religious leaders who have ever lived, that Jesus is the only way to God?
- If there is merit to Christianity's answer to these first three questions, then what does Jesus say is required to have eternal life?

4) Tools which respect the two greatest desires of an interested seeker:

- brevity
- privacy

3.4 Life On Life Missional Discipleship which provides ongoing equipping and accountability to think and live missionally.

Part Two:

4. To be intentional about training disciples (belief to maturity), a church must:

4.1 Be committed to making and deploying mature and equipped followers of Christ.

- A mature and equipped believer is someone who:
 - 1) is living consistently under the control of the Holy Spirit, the direction of the Word of God, and the compelling love of Christ,
 - 2) has discovered, developed and are using their spiritual gifts,
 - 3) has learned to effectively share their faith, while demonstrating radical love that amazes those it touches,
 - 4) gives evidence of being
 - a faithful member of God's church
 - an effective manager of life, relationships and resources,
 - a willing minister to others including "the least of these", and
 - an available messenger to non-Kingdom people, and
 - 5) demonstrates a life characterized as
 - gospel driven,
 - worship focused,
 - morally pure,
 - evangelistically bold,
 - discipleship grounded,
 - family faithful, and
 - socially responsible.

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4.2 Determine its plan for making and deploying mature and equipped followers of Christ.

(1) The present day church (for the most part) has embraced an ineffective plan for making mature and equipped followers of Christ.

- Every believer has had and/or is presently under great bondage (addiction) to sin.

- Decisions to leave such addictions are routinely followed by relapses.

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(2) Life-on-Life, laboring in the lives of a few, is God's master plan for making mature and equipped followers of Christ.

- Life-on-Life Missional Discipleship is defined as:
“Laboring in the lives of a few with the intention of imparting one’s life, God’s Word and the gospel in such a way as to see them become mature and equipped followers of Christ, committed to doing the same in the lives of others.”
- Life-on-Life Missional Discipleship requires:
 - 1) a qualified leader,
 - 2) a faithful few, willing to follow,
 - 3) intentionality regarding making mature and equipped follower of Christ, and
 - 4) doing the right things to make mature and equipped followers of Christ.

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(3) Without Life-On-Life Missional Discipleship we run the risk of producing immature believers, at best, and disillusioned learners, at worse.

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5) The necessity of balance between engineered and organic discipleship.

6) The necessity of coaching leaders.

7) The advantage of multiple group synergy.

8) The importance of seminars to augment the weekly meetings.