

Church Health/Growth Defined

Howard Culbertson

Southern Nazarene University

Church Health/Growth critics

- “It is in fact an abrasive term” – Daniel Cruse, Assemblies of God
- “Subversive efforts (that) seared America's Biblical foundations and prepared the masses to believe a lie” -- Berit Kjos, non-denominational
- “An adherence to *pragmatism* rather than biblical Christianity. Pragmatism can provide increased numbers, but it cannot regenerate unbelieving men. “ -- Phil Newton, Southern Baptist

Church Health/Growth critics

- “(It’s) numerolatry: . . . the idea that numerical growth is the only really valid criterion of church growth” – Rowland Croucher, Baptist
- “The problems in our Church are spiritual problems that must be addressed with spiritual solutions, not by . . . church growth gimmicks” – Troy Benitone, United Methodist

For purposes of this class . . .

Why not just say “evangelism” and be done with it?

How are we defining *church health/growth*?

Church Growth definition

- Church Growth is that careful discipline which **investigates** the . . .

Church Growth definition

- Church Growth is that careful discipline which investigates the . . .
 - ◆ Nature and function
 - ◆ Planting and multiplication
 - ◆ Health . . . of Christian churches

Church Health/Growth definition

Church Health/Growth is that science which investigates the . . .

- ◆ Nature and function
- ◆ Planting and multiplication. . .
- ◆ Health . . .

of Christian churches as they seek specifically to effectively implement the Lord's Great Commission to make disciples of all nations peoples (Matthew 28:19-20)

Church Growth definition

- Church Growth is a spiritual and yet practical conviction combining the eternal principles of God's Word with the practical insights of social and behavioral sciences."
- Donald McGavran's work is its initial frame of reference.

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