Church Growth Defined

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Church 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 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 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 Growth definition

- Church 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.