

# What in the World is going on with the Church?



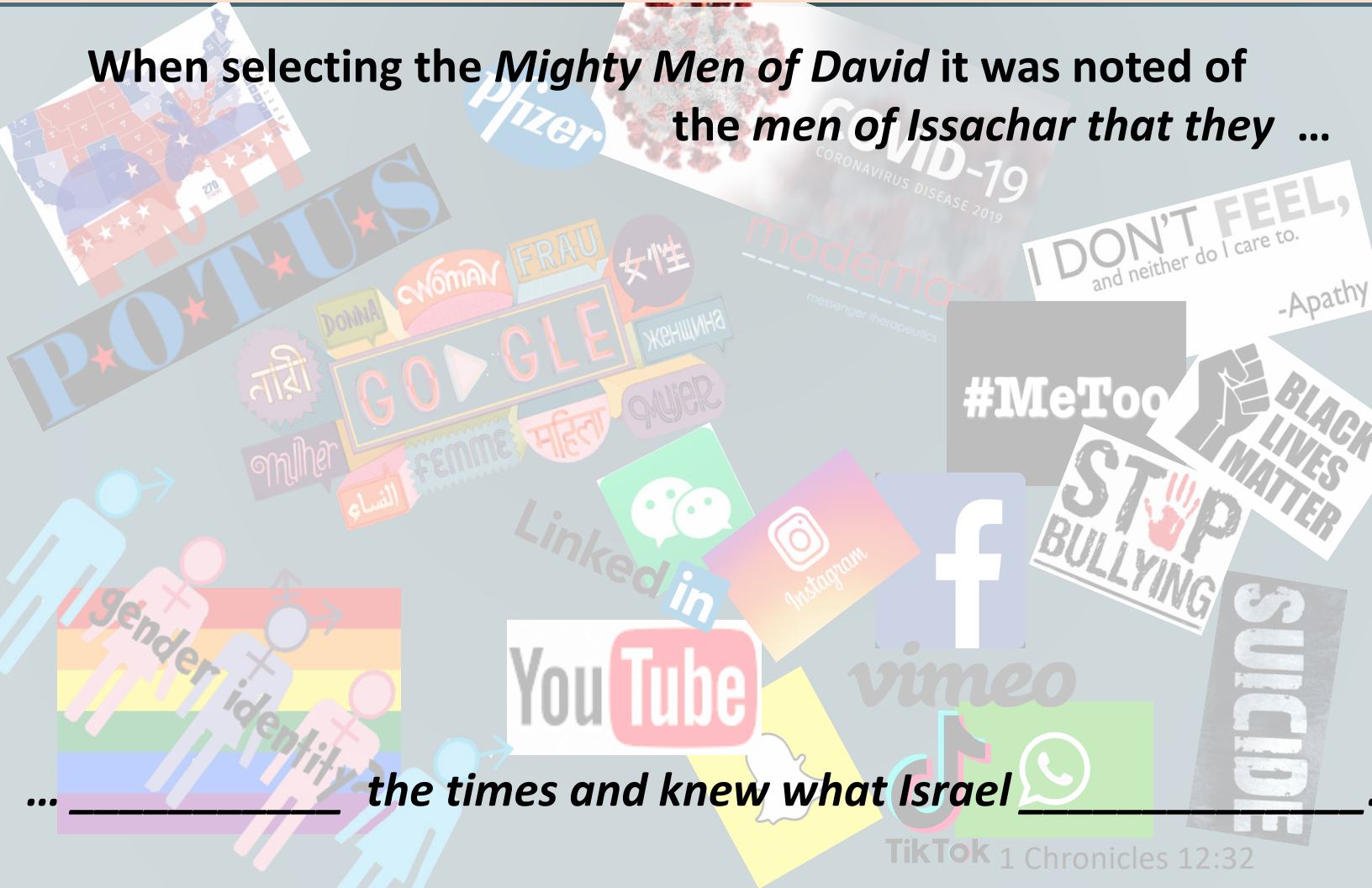
## What about here in America?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of churches are subtracting/declining or plateauing. Only \_\_\_\_\_ are adding/growing based on Exponential's categorization of churches which is defined above.
2. There are relatively \_\_\_\_\_ reproducing churches.
3. The majority of Protestant churches had less than \_\_\_\_\_ people commit to Jesus Christ as Savior in the past \_\_\_\_\_ months.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ churches are at severe risk.
5. Larger churches have a much \_\_\_\_\_ risk of dying.

<https://thomrainer.com/2019/03/major-new-research-on-declining-plateaued-and-growing-churches-from-exponential-and-lifeway-research/>



When selecting the *Mighty Men of David* it was noted of the *men of Issachar* that they ...



... the times and knew what Israel

We  
now  
live a  
**V** \_\_\_\_\_  
**U** \_\_\_\_\_  
**C** \_\_\_\_\_  
**A** \_\_\_\_\_  
World!

### Five Main Beliefs of Postmodernism

1. Reality is in the mind of the beholder.
2. People are not able to think independently because they are defined— “scripted,” molded—by their culture.
3. There is no possibility of “transcultural objectivity.” We cannot judge things in another culture or in another person’s life, because our reality may be different from theirs.”
4. We are moving in the direction of progress but are arrogantly dominating nature and threatening our future.
5. Nothing is ever proven, either by science<sup>2</sup>, history, or any other discipline.

# 8 Assumptions Churches Can't Make in our Post-Christian Culture

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Literacy
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Attendance
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Giving
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Alignment
5. Awareness of, and Agreement about Biblical  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. An Understanding of the Reality of \_\_\_\_\_
7. A Recognition of the Need for \_\_\_\_\_
8. An Acceptance of Salvation through \_\_\_\_\_

## THE BIBLICAL PRECEDENT FOR THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

### Components of Assessment

- Information
- Analysis
- Diagnosis
- Prescription

# ASSUMPTIONS

## #1

The Church's *primary identity* is that of being the \_\_\_\_\_.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27

<sup>28</sup>In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, **just as Christ does the church—** <sup>30</sup>**for we are members of his body.** <sup>31</sup>“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup>This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:30-32

If Jesus were living in your community:

- What would He be doing?
- Where would He be going?
- Who would He be spending time with?
- How would your community be different?

Is *YOUR CHURCH* a relationally redemptive body?

# ASSUMPTIONS

# #2

That which is healthy  
&

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*“So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything,  
but only God, who makes things grow.  
...I laid a foundation as an expert builder...”*

1 Corinthians 3:5–15

## Contrasting Church Growth Motives

CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT	vs.	MISSIONAL GROWTH
Numbers	➔	
Transfer Growth	➔	
Pride	➔	
Expedient	➔	
Cultural Compromise	➔	
Passive Christian Consumerism	➔	
Discipleship = Biblical Knowledge	➔	
Come and see	➔	
Individual Needs	➔	

# ASSUMPTIONS

#3

Jesus Christ is building His Church to defeat sin, death, and judgment; therefore, it has one \_\_\_\_\_ purpose, which is to constantly be making \_\_\_\_\_ while growing as \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Matthew 16:18

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

Luke 19:10

The Gospel never changes but

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#4

The Acts of the Apostles – A model of

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*“To the weak I became weak, to win the weak.  
I have become all things to all men  
so that by all possible means I might save some.”*

1 Corinthians 9:22

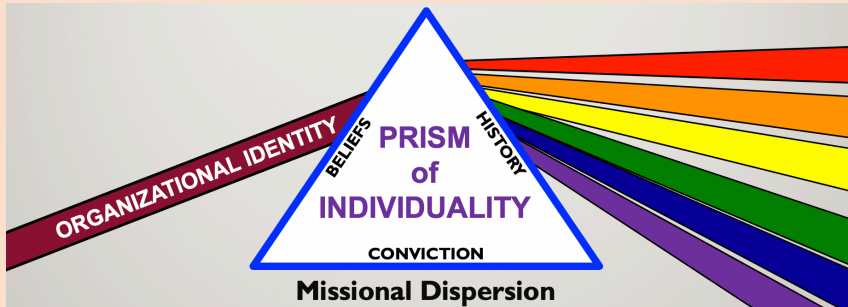
# CHARACTERISTICS OF HEALTHY MINISTRY

# #1

## MISSION DRIVEN (PURPOSE)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of an \_\_\_\_\_  
*Focused Purpose or Mission*
2. Great \_\_\_\_\_ /Great \_\_\_\_\_ Based
3. Laser \_\_\_\_\_, Broadly \_\_\_\_\_, Thoroughly \_\_\_\_\_, Repeatedly \_\_\_\_\_, Joyously \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Used as the Basis of \_\_\_\_\_ at all Levels of Church Ministry

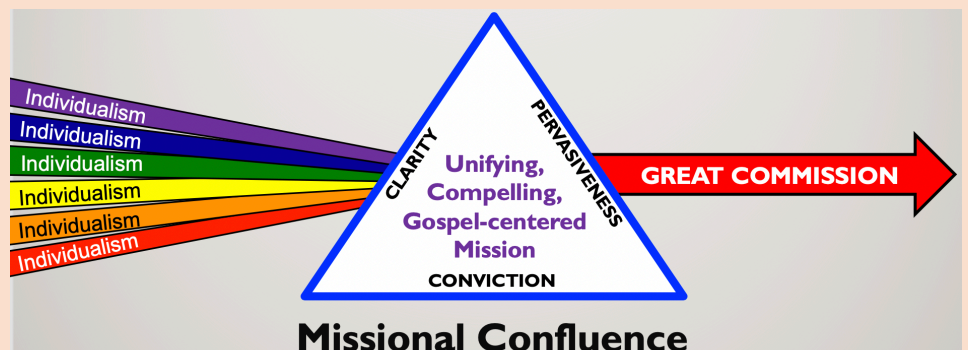
## Why do so many churches lack unity and effectiveness?



Most churches are not hurting for \_\_\_\_\_ of vision, but for lack of a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ vision.

Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."  
Matthew 16:23

What baggage do you bring to the church?



I do not ask (for unity) for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. John 17:20-21

# CHARACTERISTICS OF HEALTHY MINISTRY

## #2

## HOLISTIC DISCIPLESHIP

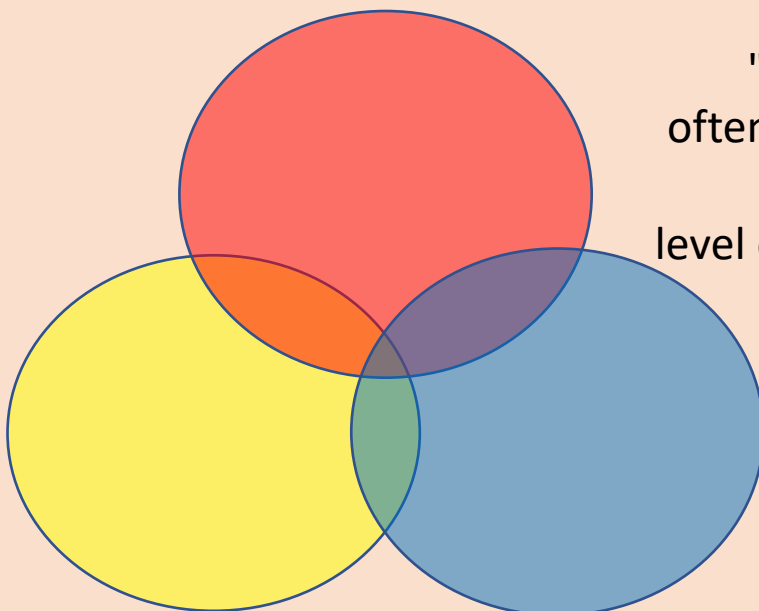
1. Our understanding and methods of making disciples are \_\_\_\_\_ to produce believers who are like \_\_\_\_\_ in their purity, passion, and pursuit.
2. Understanding that discipleship is not an \_\_\_\_\_, but a means to a greater end. Eph. 4:11–16

<sup>11</sup> It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:11–16

## How do you measure discipleship?



"As Christians we are often times \_\_\_\_\_ way beyond the level of our \_\_\_\_\_."

Mark Batterson, *Primal Fear*



# CHARACTERISTICS OF HEALTHY MINISTRY

# #3

## EMPOWERING POLITY

Our definition of “leadership” often is more about

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_

than it is about

\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_

of the Body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11–13

**What makes this a good picture of the church?**



## **ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

