

Part #1: The Law of Purpose: Commitment to the Commission

Introduction:

- **The Characteristics of a High Impact Church**

1. Lost people are coming to Christ.
2. Found people are growing to maturity.
3. Your church is meeting significant needs in your community.

- **The Goal**

To encourage and empower pastors to grow a High Impact Church.

- **Dispelling the Myths of Church Growth**

Myth #1: You have to have a certain kind of personality.

Myth #2: You have to have a certain style of music.

Myth #3: You have to follow certain models.

Myth #4: You must make your church like those mentioned above.

- **Empirical Research and Key Resources**

Natural Church Development by Christian Schwarz

The High Impact Church by Linus Morris



Growing churches know the purpose of the Church and the purpose of their church within their sphere of influence.

1. The Objective:

To explain that the purpose of the Church is to have a great commitment to the Great Commission and the great commandment. In essence, the Church has been left on earth to make disciples of Jesus Christ and, as a result, to bring glory to God.

2. The Research:

The number one correlation between churches that grow and churches that do not grow is the willingness of the church to go outside of itself to get help. The second strongest correlation between churches that grow and churches that do not is pastors and leaders who are willing to go outside of their church and ask for help.

3. The Major Teaching Points:

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

// MATTHEW 28:18-20 (NIV)

4. Making Disciples Involves:

_____ - lost people come to Christ.

_____ - found people grow to maturity.

_____ - mature people reproduce their lives

God has a specific plan for each local assembly rooted in their culture, time in history, spiritual gifts resident in the body, and needs of their community. These are the basis of a local church's vision. Each local church must determine, before God, their specific purpose for existence in their community.



4. The Practical Implementation:

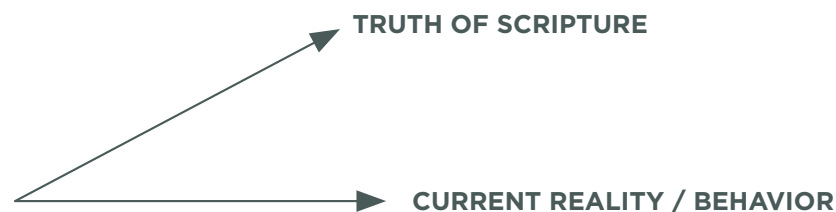
_____ means to accomplish discipleship: The Purpose-Driven model

The five purposes for every believer:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

- Start developing a plan to fulfill your purpose – a specific strategy to move your people through each stage of discipleship.
- We need to teach our way toward the vision. Then the changes are seen as a solution to a problem, not a change being imposed on them.

Transition from the heart.



- The _____ of vision.

- How to develop a vision statement:

Articulate God's will from Scripture and then picture for them what God could do through ordinary people.



- Key components of a good vision statement:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Key Questions:

1. How has your understanding of a High Impact Church changed as a result of this session?
2. Do you see a need for developing a plan for people to become members of the body of Christ? ... to mature? ... to minister? ... to use their life mission in the market place and ultimately to glorify God? How do you think such a plan will benefit you and the church?
3. What is the unique calling of your local church? Why do you exist?
4. What things came to your mind during this session as God spoke to you?
5. How focused are you on achieving your church's purpose; how is your church doing at scoring spiritual goals?
6. Are you producing people who are following Christ?

Resources at our website: LivingontheEdge.org

The High Impact Church – chapters 9 & 12
The Miracle of Life Change, sessions 5-6, audio or DVD small group material

