

Part #2: The Law of Expectation: The Status Quo is not an Option

1. The Objective:

To help pastors to see that they are the key to church growth, and that there is an attitude and worldview of expectation that must be taught by them and caught by their church for it to grow.

2. The Introduction:

- List the top two or three _____ to growth in your church.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

- Research shows that the primary factor in church growth is the ROLE of the pastor.
- There are many things pastors do not have control of but pastors do have 100% control of their _____ and what they expect God to do in the church.

Every church has barriers.

**Growing churches believe that growth is normal, predictable,
supernatural, and imperative for them as a congregation.
The “status quo” is not an option.**



- Pastors of growing churches:
 - Have a commitment to _____.
 - Have a visionary faith and _____ _____.
 - Provide effective pastoral _____.

3. The Major Teaching Points:

A commitment to grow

- Growth is _____ (see Acts 2,3,4,6,8,10,13)

²⁶ He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰ Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. ³² Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.”

³³ With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. ³⁴ He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when He was alone with His own disciples, He explained everything.

// MARK 4: 26-34 (NIV)

- Growth is _____ (see Matthew 28; Luke 15)
- Growth is _____ (see 1 Corinthians 3)
- Growth _____

1. Spiritual

2. Sociological



3. Structural

4. Emotional / Perceptual

• Growth is _____.

1. Integrity issues – Tests of character

2. Cultural issues – “We’ve always done it that way.”

3. Traditions vs. Biblical commands

4. People’s expectations vs. Biblical models

5. Politics – Unqualified leaders

4. The Research:

Churches that have a clearly stated vision, and make it the basis for their planning and evaluation, are churches that are much more likely to grow than those that do not.

5. The Practical Implementation:

A visionary faith and prayer life

• Why is vision important?

1. It’s the north star of the church.

2. It’s the basis and criteria for _____.

3. It provides a means to _____ progress and evaluation.

4. It _____ greatness.

5. It attracts pillar people.

6. It is the key to unity; it keeps the focus off problem and “pet” issues.



- How to develop vision in the church to set expectations:

1. Get to know _____.
2. Get to know _____.
3. Get to know other _____.
4. Get to know _____.

- How to articulate the vision in the church:

1. State it big, and simply, and often.
2. State it compellingly.
3. Tell stories.
4. Use printed material.
5. Utilize preaching.

Key Question:

How are you doing in regard to your attitude, expectations, faith, and walk with God?

