

What If the Quality of Your Church Could Be Measured?

There are many views on what makes churches grow. Natural Church Development (NCD) has identified eight universal quality factors that distinguish growing churches from shrinking ones. But NCD is no “easy fix”, it is like an ongoing fitness program. As you can’t force a flower to grow but only nurture it, churches have to improve their quality to unleash more “all by itself” growth.

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I. Intro & Motivation

- A. Jesus said he would build his church (Mt 16:18)
- B. God wants the church to grow (Mt 29:18-20, Ac 2:47b, 1 Tim 2:4)
- C. How does a church grow “naturally”?
- D. What makes a “healthy” church?

II. What is Natural Church Development (NCD)?

- A. A global church growth movement (with very little marketing)
- B. The NCD fundamentals

III. Measuring church quality

- A. Scientific approach: empirical data driven organizational development

B. Allegory: blood sample for health check

C. What questions to ask to determine church quality?

IV. The eight quality factors of NCD

A. Empowering leadership (comp. Ac 20:18-20, Eph 4:11-14, 1 Pt 5:1-3)

B. Gift-based ministry (comp. Rom 12:4-8, 1 Co 12:4-7, 1 Pt 4:10.11, 2 Tim 1,6.7)

C. Passionate spirituality (comp. Ac 4:20, 2 Co 5:20, Phil 1:21;3:8)

D. Effective structures (comp. Ex 18:13-27, Ac 6:1-4, 1 Tim 3:12.13;5:9-11, Titus 1:6-9)

E. Inspiring worship service (comp. Ac 2:46.47, 1Co 14:26, Eph 5:19, Heb 10:19-22)

F. Holistic small groups (comp. Ac 2:44-46, 1 Co 12:26, Ro 12:15)

G. Need-oriented evangelism (comp. Ac 2:44.45.47, 1 Co 9:22.23, Phil 2:6-8, Jas 2:15.16)

H. Loving relationships (comp. Joh 13:35, Ac 2:42-47, 1 Co 13, Phil 2:2, Col 3:13.14)

V. The six growth forces of NCD

A. Learning from creation: biotic principles of life (comp. Mk 4:26-29, 1 Co 3:6.7)

B. Interdependence (comp. 1 Ki 3:16-28, Ac 6:2-4;23:6.7, Gal 5:2-4, 1 Tim 5:19)

- C. Multiplication (comp. Ex 18:13-27, Mt 28:18-20a, Joh 12:24, 2 Tim 2:2)
 - D. Energy transformation (comp. Ro 8:28, 2 Co 12:7-10, Phil 1:15-19, 1 Pt 5:10, Jas 1:2-4)
 - E. Sustainability (comp. Mt 28:18-20a, Lk 9:13-17, Joh 12:24;13:35;15:16, 2 Tim 2:2)
 - F. Symbiosis (see section IV. B; comp. Joh 17:23, Ac 13:1, Eph 2:11-16, Rev 7:9)
 - G. Fruitfulness (comp. Mt 7:16-20, Lk 13:6-9, Joh 15:16, Jas 2:17.18)
- VI. In a nutshell: the NCD process
- A. An iterative change program
 - B. What to expect – and what not
- VII. Summary and call to action
- A. What NCD is
 - B. What NCD is not
 - C. Call to action

Suggested Readings:

The NCD website: www.ncd-international.org

Christian A. Schwarz: *The All by Itself Pathway – An Introduction to Natural Church Development*

Christian A. Schwarz: *Color Your World with Natural Church Development – Experiencing all that God has designed you to be*