



# SIX SIGNIFICANT QUALITIES





# What?

**LOVE!**

**CONFIDENCE!**

**INTEGRITY!**

**HONESTY!**

**TOLERANCE!**

**ENTHUSIASM!**

## Maybe these SIX?



Kind Thinker Mentor  
Role Model Reflective  
Collaborator Leader Patient  
Empathises **Learner** Expressive Reliable  
Shares Unflappable Communicator Logical Spokesperson  
Imaginative Problem Solver Approachable  
Enthusiastic Adaptable Willing Pedagogy Supportive  
Integrity Inspired Passionate Visionary Keen Coach  
Explorer Flexible Realistic Facilitator  
Giving



The Bible tells us that we should bring up our children in the way of the Lord

## **Ephesians 6:4 (NIV)**

*<sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*



# WHY?

So that they will have a character with good qualities.  
A good Christian upbringing develops,  
Christ like characteristics





Now churches come in a variety of shapes and sizes, each with its **own personality**. Of course, I can't recommend one over the other because:

- The best church for you is one that meets your needs while giving you the opportunity to meet the needs of others.







# Ultimately people will go where they feel accepted, loved and comfortable.

You'll discover that some churches are;

- **Way stations** for the wounded,
- Others are **town squares**, where a herald announces good tidings from the King.
- Some are **hospitals** for the sick;
- Others are **fire stations**, whose trucks rush to douse the community's problems.
- Some are **family centres** that provide a good environment for children;
- Others are **theatres**, where music and drama are emphasized.





- Some will place expectation on you to get involved!
- Some will motivate you to get involved!
- Some will preach the undiluted gospel and speak in tongues – all the time!
- Some will coerce you to give your last cent!

**But let's ask a question?**

**How would you know if the church is HEALTHY?**



**" Don't focus on the growth of the church;  
focus on the health of the church, as healthy  
things grow!"** Brian Houston - Hillsong Church.





“Focus on the Health of the Church”

**WHY?**

Because healthy things grow!



# What makes church healthy?

A graphic with the text "MARKS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters are filled with a collage of diverse people, including men and women of various ethnicities, ages, and expressions, representing a multicultural and inclusive church community. The background of the graphic is a solid light beige color.

**MARKS OF A  
HEALTHY  
CHURCH**



# SIX SIGNIFICANT QUALITIES



The SIX qualities we have to look for in a healthy church!



**Free Chapel  
Alberton, AGF**

**Enter**

Jesus said, "Whoever  
wants to be my disciple  
must deny themselves  
and take up their cross  
daily and follow me.  
Luke 9:23

Free Chapel, Alberton, is a  
community of FOLLOWERS.



**not a fan.**

What about Free Chapel, Alberton?



## Daniel 5:25-28 (NIV)

### The Writing on the Wall

*<sup>25</sup> “This is the inscription that was written:*

*MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN*

*<sup>26</sup> “Here is what these words mean:*

*Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.*

*<sup>27</sup> Tekel: **You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.***

*<sup>28</sup> Peres: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”*



מנא מנא תקל ופרסין

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN

**You have been weighed on the  
scales and found wanting.**



So let us measure ourselves against the **SIX** significant qualities of a healthy church.

## **1. A Healthy Church Glorifies God.**

### **1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)**

*<sup>31</sup> So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*



To glorify God means **to magnify, elevate, and draw attention to His radiance.**

This is the **primary purpose** of the church and of individual Christians.

**Personally**, we do this by inviting Him into every segment of our lives, by telling others of His greatness rather than grabbing His glory for ourselves, and by nurturing our relationships with Him.

**How can we make this happen?**

By **meeting with Him often**, admitting to others our struggles with pride, and continually asking ourselves, *Will this bring glory to God or to me?*

**A church that feeds your desire to glorify God is a healthy church.**





## 2. A Healthy Church Worships God with a Genuine Spirit of Devotion.

### Acts 2:42-43 (NIV)

*<sup>42</sup> They **devoted** themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.<sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.*



The early Christians provide a great example of this:

These people **listened to the Word**, and through communion and prayer, they interacted with each other and the Lord.

**When they met, intensity and full-hearted devotion blended with passionate commitment.**

The Father was exalted, the Son was lifted up, and the Spirit brought fresh expressions of freedom.



This should be a common experience whenever Christians gather, but, sadly, it isn't always that way.

- Often, songs are sung,
- Scripture read
- Announcements made
- Yet worship is missing.



To determine the health of a church's worship,  
ask yourself,

- *Does my soul soar into the presence of the Lord?*
- *Do I become lost in wonder and praise worthy of Him?*

**A church that opens the way for meaningful  
worship is a healthy church.**



### **3. A Healthy Church Balances Biblical Instruction with Personal Application.**

The early church emphasized biblical teaching, as should we, because solid, consistent teaching from God's Word helps us grow in several ways:

- It matures and stabilizes our faith in times of testing.
- It increases our ability to detect and confront error.
- It gives us wisdom.





Teaching that **remains theoretical**, however, can breed indifference or arrogance.

Also, preaching that fails to **balance instruction with love and grace** may reflect intolerance.

And finally, when biblical knowledge becomes an end in itself, it brushes dangerously close to idolatry—worshiping the Bible above its Author is not healthy.

**So, look for worship and instruction coupled with compassionate application; this reveals a healthy church.**



## 4. A Healthy Church Exudes Warmth.

Not only was the early church caught up in worship, individual devotion to the Lord, and instruction from the Word, but ***“they were continually devoting themselves . . . to fellowship”*** (Acts 2:42).

**They cared for one another.**



A person experiences true fellowship in two ways: when he or she shares something tangible with a person in need, and when he or she shares in something with someone—empathizing with a person's sorrow or joy.

**The healthy church is a community of believers who demonstrate genuine concern for each other.**



## 5. A Healthy Church Reaches Out to Others.

First-century Christians took their concern a step further and **shared with others what they knew about Jesus.**

When they ventured beyond their walls, lives were changed:

*“And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47).*



Churches that reach out in a healthy way focus their church services on the **growth of the believer**, not on evangelizing the unbeliever.

The church uses worship, instruction, and fellowship to equip Christians to then take the message of God's love to the world.





Healthy churches also refrain from using manipulation and coercion in evangelism. Instead, they encourage treating others with respect and dignity, allowing the Holy Spirit to work in His way and time.

**A healthy church helps people appropriately express their faith where they live or work.**



## 6. A Healthy Church Has a Contagious Style.

Like a **magnet**, a church with a contagious style draws people to its doors.



**Four features** comprise this style:

**It is biblical in content.** Messages are based on the Word of God, not on the opinions or interests of the preacher.

**It is authentic in nature.** This is a church that believes what it says.

**It is gracious in attitude.** The church sees itself as a family, not as a corporation.

**It is relevant in approach.** This church shows how God's Word applies to today's needs, issues, and concerns.



Whenever you find a church that;

1. Glorifies the Godhead,
2. Fosters a spirit of devotion to the Lord,
3. Dispenses the Word of God along with relevant application,
4. Generates personal warmth,
5. Touches outsiders with the wonderful news of Jesus,
6. And all with a contagious style,



**You have found a healthy church.**



Remember – YOU ARE THE CHURCH

How do you stack up to these

**SIX SIGNIFICANT QUALITIES.**



## **References / Credits**

1. <http://www.insight.org/library/articles/church/how-to-recognize-a-healthy.html>
2. Brian Houston - Hillsong Church.
3. www.google.com