



Grace Gospel Fellowship
Church Health Taskforce
Self-Assessment Questionnaire

Topics for Consideration

1. Worship
2. Balanced Theology/Practical Implications
3. Striving Toward Unity (within Church)
4. Striving Towards Neighborhood Engagement/Reconciliation
5. Striving Towards Global Engagement/Reconciliation
6. Strong Leaders Discipling Future Leaders
7. Avoiding Formulas and Legalistic Structures (open to movement of Spirit)
8. Christian Ethic That Confronts Sin (within the Church)

1. Worship (healthy, Christ-focused, communal)

The apostle Paul speaks of a worship that is embodied by the church community. His letters reflect instructions on worship that point toward practices that proclaim the truth of the Gospel in ways that are culturally accessible, invite a conversation with the entire Body of Christ, and serve to form God's people more into the image of Christ. Worship of God is more than just song, but involves every aspect of our lives. The gathering of the Christian community to worship should not be the final word, but should send us to be more equipped worshippers throughout our week.

I. What is the goal of your Sunday gatherings?

II. What are the various elements of your worship services? (scripture reading, prayer, singing, teaching, fellowship, communion, etc.)?

1. What percentage of your congregation plays a leadership role in your Sunday service?

2. What is the interplay between your music selections, sermon, and the rest of your worship?

III. In what ways does your worship services "speak the language" of the environment?

1. How engaged are the different ages of people with the music ministry?

a) Who is getting missed in your weekly gatherings?

2. What is one way your services are different today than they were a year ago?

2. Balanced Theology/Practical Implications

Pauline theology is uninterested in doctrine that does not directly impact daily life. Sound doctrine with appropriate application is one that moves the Christian community toward living out its faith, hope and love in their homes and neighborhoods. A balanced theology is one that embraces the entirety of Scripture as profitable for God's people. A healthy church is one that wrestles with difficult questions, equips all people to study God's word for themselves, and desires to see God's word become flesh in their day to day lives.

- I. How much time do you give equipping believers dispensationally with practical application?
 1. How often do teaching sessions include direct application to "real life"?
 2. What ways are people given to communally discuss, study, and wrestle with Scripture?
 3. In what ways are biblical teachings being lived out in your church?
- II. What venues does your church provide for deeper theological discourse?
 1. What parts of Scripture are most difficult for our church?
 2. Specifically, in what ways does your teaching holistically equip believers?
- III. In what ways does your theology guide each aspect of the ministries of your church?

3. Striving Toward Unity (within Church)

One of the major emphases of the New Testament epistles is the unity of the local church. As this community represents the Body of Christ within her neighborhoods and cities, it is essential that it reflects both the diversity and oneness of God himself. This unity is seen by inviting participation from entire Body as well as constructively dealing with the diverse issues that arise within the local church so that we may reflect the power of the Gospel to our world.

- I. How do you encourage your regular attendees to feel a sense of ownership to the ongoing work of the church?
 1. How naturally will a newer attender feel a sense of ownership?
 2. Are you actively striving to make newer attenders feel a sense of ownership?
- II. What are the cliques that are noticeable in the church?
 1. What are you doing about them?
 2. How much influence do they have?
- III. When disagreements regarding ministry and church life arise, how are they dealt with?
 1. What are the greatest areas of tension within the life of your church? How are they being addressed?

4. Striving Towards Neighborhood Engagement/Reconciliation

As we strive to be united within our churches, it is important that we are also focusing on our relationships with our neighbors. In this way, our congregations are equipped to address both the physical and spiritual needs of those around us in a way that shows the gospel of the grace of God. As we live in this way, others will be impacted with the message of love, forgiveness and justice that we preach. Our reputation in the community will directly influence the way the message of grace is heard.

- I. If your church were suddenly moved from your neighborhood, what would be missed?
 1. When outsiders mention your church name, how positive are the comments?
 - a) If there have been problems in the community caused by the church (or people in the church) how have these issues been addressed?
 - b) Who would not feel welcome if they walked in to your church?
- II. How different are the age/income/ethnic demographics within your church from your community today?
- III. What impact is your church making on your community? Children, youth outreach, bible studies, work projects, etc.
 1. What are the major issues that are facing your immediate neighborhood and how can you walk with them through those challenges?
 2. In what tangible ways have you loved your neighbors in the past year?
 3. How often are individuals in your congregation encouraged to engage with their neighbors?
 4. What sort of church-organized service opportunities does your congregation engage in?
 5. How concerned are your church people to pray for, witness to, and share the Lord with their neighbors.
 6. What local, community organizations does your congregation support?

5. Striving Towards Global Engagement/Reconciliation

This section focuses on your involvement in missionary work outside your own locality and country. In order to keep a balanced ministry focus we need to include world missions as a vital part of the local ministry. To do this, it is important to enable our local communities to have purposeful and meaningful engagement with world missions through supporting, encouraging and sending missionaries.

I. Engagement

1. In what ways does the leadership of your church encourage the congregation to be supporting world missions?
2. How intentional is your church to include world missions, promote missions, and support missions in the everyday working of the ministry?
3. How does your church encourage personal engagement with world missions, beyond financial gifts?
4. How often do members of your congregation participate in short term missions?

II. Awareness

1. How often are the struggles, joys and challenges of the global body of Christ focused on during your weekly gathering?
2. How do new people coming into your church find out about your world mission outreach?
3. In what ways are missionaries celebrated when visiting your church?

III. Financial Support

1. What is the process for your church to actively support missionaries throughout the year?
2. How does your church prioritize missionary support when and if finances tighten?

6. Strong Leaders Discipling Future Leaders

It is often stated that a church is only as strong as its leadership. These question evaluates both how invested your church leadership is their spiritual health as well as the necessity of reproducing themselves. There is great value in efforts to mentor and disciple future leaders to carry on the ministry of the local church while also enabling the current leadership to be thriving in their calling. If no one is prepared to assume the open positions, the ministry severely suffers. As you answer these questions hopefully you will be able to see how you are doing in developing your current leaders and future leaders.

I. Who are your pastors/elders discipling?

1. How are young men and women being prepared for and given positions of leadership within the church?
2. What structures are in place to support ongoing discipleship of lay leaders?
3. In what ways do you encouraging prospective young leaders to further their theological and ministry training?
4. What leaders are working themselves out of a job?

II. What steps is your pastor taking steps to strengthen his leadership and personal/spiritual health?

III. How does your congregation encourage your pastor in a regular and meaningful manner?

7. Avoiding Formulas and Legalistic Structures (open to movement of Spirit)

A natural outworking of a grace-based doctrinal foundation is open, graceful living. While affirming the non-negotiables, there are areas of church life that should be reevaluated in order to ensure our message is congruent with our actions. Following Paul's message of respecting the different values of believers (Romans 14) our churches should strive to encourage growth and participation while also being committed to not putting stumbling blocks in front of other believers.

- I. Where would people place your church on a spectrum between *rigid* and *open* in its stand on doctrine and social issues?
 1. How does your church emphasize "Grace living" in relationship to "Grace Doctrine"?
- II. How often does your church reevaluate its ministry focus and structure?
 1. What are the ways your church engages with that language and culture of its environment?
 2. What is your church's process for suggesting, considering and applying new ministry forms?
 3. In what ways does your church welcome new expressions of worship?
- III. What are the unwritten expectations that people are expected to abide by?
 1. What would a new person notice about the culture of your church?
 2. How quickly would the stalwarts in your church quiz a new person on pet dispensational points?

8. Christian Ethic That Confronts Sin (within the Church)

A key aspect of Paul's ministry to the Church was confronting sin within the congregations. The Christian community is called to a process of sanctification which involves continually examining our sins and repenting so that all members of the Body may be more and more conformed into the image of Christ. Often it is easier to see the sins of those outside the church, rather than our own, and the role of the Body of Christ is to be building one another up in the love of Christ, and humbly repenting of our own weakness so that we can better reflect Christ's love to the world.

- I. What processes does your church take to discipline sin within the congregation?
 1. What sins within your congregation require confrontation? Which ones do not?
 2. Specifically, how does your constitution and doctrinal statement address your response to moral or ethical problems within your church?
 3. What is the purpose of the confrontation of sin within your congregation?
- II. How would you treat people that come into your church with lifestyle issues and want to fellowship with you?
 1. What is the process of restoration for those whose sins have been addressed?
- III. Are there any ongoing, egregious sin issues that are causing strife, discord or tension in the church or community?
 1. What process do you have for exploring communal sins?