

Seven Metaphors

CHURCH HEALTH
SURVEY

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Church Health Survey

Seven Metaphors for Building a Healthy Church

Body

The Big Idea

Healthy Churches Value Connectedness and Biblical Diversity

YOUR HEALTH SNAPSHOT – Take your own temperature

Rate each statement honestly. This isn't a test—it's a personal baseline. Circle or mark the number that best reflects where you are right now.

1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Always

Embracing Difference

I genuinely value and learn from people in my church who come from different backgrounds or have different gifts than my own.

1 2 3 4 5

Sympathy Principle

When someone in my church experiences joy or pain, I feel moved to share in that experience with them.

1 2 3 4 5

Assistance Principle

When I see someone struggling, I look for practical ways to help—even when it costs me something.

1 2 3 4 5

Active Service

I actively use my gifts to serve others rather than simply attending as a passive participant.

1 2 3 4 5

Gracious Truth-Telling

I am willing to have honest, loving conversations when needed—and I stay open when others do the same with me.

1 2 3 4 5

Coordination and Unity

I prioritize the church's health and mission over my own preferences and expectations.

1 2 3 4 5

Honoring the Unseen

I intentionally notice and appreciate the people who serve quietly behind the scenes.

1 2 3 4 5

After rating yourself: Which area scored lowest? Which scored highest? Bring both to your group—the strengths are worth celebrating, and the gaps are worth exploring together.

“For the body does not consist of one member but of many.”
—1 Corinthians 12:14 (ESV)

Church Health Survey

Seven Metaphors for Building a Healthy Church

Family

The Big Idea

Healthy Churches Love Deeply and Care for One Another

YOUR HEALTH SNAPSHOT – Take your own temperature

Rate each statement honestly. This isn't a test—it's a personal baseline. Circle or mark the number that best reflects where you are right now.

1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Always

Family Identity	I see my identity as a child of God as more central to who I am than my career, ethnicity, social status, or other cultural identities.	1	2	3	4	5
Sense of Belonging	I genuinely feel at home and welcomed when I gather with other believers, even those from very different backgrounds than my own.	1	2	3	4	5
Imitation Principle	I intentionally observe and learn from more mature believers in my church, and I let their godly example shape how.	1	2	3	4	5
Intergenerational Respect	I treat older believers as spiritual parents and younger believers as siblings, and I show care and honor across age differences.	1	2	3	4	5
Deep Investment	My commitment to my church family goes beyond attendance—I am willing to share time, resources, and emotional support when others have genuine needs.	1	2	3	4	5
Family-Like Gathering	I come to church gatherings looking for meaningful connection, not just to be a listener or spectator.	1	2	3	4	5
Overcoming Past Hurts	When painful experiences with family or church surface, I actively work to renew my mind with biblical truth rather than letting past wounds keep me from community.	1	2	3	4	5

After rating yourself: Which area scored lowest? Which scored highest? Bring both to your group—the strengths are worth celebrating, and the gaps are worth exploring together.

“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,”
—Romans 8:16 (ESV)

Church Health Survey

Seven Metaphors for Building a Healthy Church

Building

The Big Idea

Healthy Churches Establish Themselves in Truth and Astonish the World

YOUR HEALTH SNAPSHOT – Take your own temperature

Rate each statement honestly. This isn't a test—it's a personal baseline. Circle or mark the number that best reflects where you are right now.

1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Always

Christ as Cornerstone	I consistently build my faith, decisions, and church involvement on Jesus Christ rather than on personalities, programs, or past traditions.	1	2	3	4	5
Structural Integrity	I support the health and stability of my church through sound biblical convictions and consistent godly character, rather than causing division or drift.	1	2	3	4	5
Offset Bonding	I actively cultivate spiritual relationships with multiple believers—drawing from a range of voices rather than relying on a single teacher or mentor.	1	2	3	4	5
Living Stone Identity	I see my role and placement in this church as specific and significant—part of what holds the broader structure together.	1	2	3	4	5
Sacrificial Worship	I regularly offer spiritual sacrifices to God—worship, prayer, praise, and generous giving—while recognizing that our gathered community is His dwelling place.	1	2	3	4	5
Firm Anchoring	I am genuinely committed and rooted in my local church, not loose or peripheral due to busyness, distraction, or misplaced priorities.	1	2	3	4	5
Building Others Up	I intentionally invest in the stability and faith of the believers around me, rather than pulling away from community or pushing others aside.	1	2	3	4	5

After rating yourself: Which area scored lowest? Which scored highest? Bring both to your group—the strengths are worth celebrating, and the gaps are worth exploring together.

“In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”
—Ephesians 2:22 (ESV)

Church Health Survey

Seven Metaphors for Building a Healthy Church

Flock

The Big Idea

Healthy Churches Follow God and Cultivate Dependence on Him

YOUR HEALTH SNAPSHOT – Take your own temperature

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Shepherd's Voice

I consistently recognize and follow Jesus' voice through Scripture and the Spirit's leading, rather than being shaped by cultural trends or my own personal desires.

1 2 3 4 5

Flock Connection

I actively stay close to the other sheep in my local church, knowing that isolation works against my spiritual nature and health.

1 2 3 4 5

Giving Back

I regularly contribute my time, talents, and resources to serve my church community rather than approaching church primarily as a consumer.

1 2 3 4 5

Humble Dependence

I trust in God's protection and provision during difficult seasons, actively fighting the tendency to act as though I have a small or distant Shepherd.

1 2 3 4 5

Wise Following

I submit to godly leadership in my church and stay alert to the difference between following Christ and following dominant or charismatic personalities.

1 2 3 4 5

Spiritual Hunger

I actively seek nourishment from God's Word, prayer, and fellowship with other believers; I maintain a healthy appetite for the things of God.

1 2 3 4 5

Restoration and Welcome

When I stray or struggle, I seek repentance and return to the flock rather than pulling away in shame; I also extend genuine welcome to those who are new.

1 2 3 4 5

After rating yourself: Which area scored lowest? Which scored highest? Bring both to your group—the strengths are worth celebrating, and the gaps are worth exploring together.

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

—Jesus, John 10:27 (ESV)

Church Health Survey

Seven Metaphors for Building a Healthy Church

Garden

The Big Idea

Healthy Churches Root People in God and His Word To Produce Fruit

YOUR HEALTH SNAPSHOT – Take your own temperature

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Abiding Connection

I maintain a consistent, intimate connection with Christ through regular Scripture intake, prayer, and worshipful obedience—allowing His life to flow through me like sap through a branch.

1 2 3 4 5

Fruit of Righteousness

My life shows genuine evidence of spiritual fruit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—rather than just an outward appearance of religion.

1 2 3 4 5

Deep Roots

I am firmly grounded in God's truth and love, which gives me stability when popular—but incorrect—ideas press in from around me.

1 2 3 4 5

Evangelistic Fruitfulness

I intentionally share the Gospel and see myself as part of God's harvest work, rather than focusing only on my own spiritual growth.

1 2 3 4 5

Intertwined Community

I am genuinely connected with other believers in my church; I give and receive mutual support rather than trying to grow in spiritual isolation.

1 2 3 4 5

Receptive to Pruning

When God allows difficult circumstances or correction in my life, I respond with trust and submission, understanding that pruning leads to greater fruitfulness.

1 2 3 4 5

Growing Humility

As I mature spiritually, I grow in honest self-awareness and dependence on God's grace, rather than becoming more self-satisfied with my spiritual progress.

1 2 3 4 5

After rating yourself: Which area scored lowest? Which scored highest? Bring both to your group—the strengths are worth celebrating, and the gaps are worth exploring together.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

—Jesus, John 15:5 (ESV)

Church Health Survey

Seven Metaphors for Building a Healthy Church

Kingdom

The Big Idea

Healthy Churches Represent Christ Well and Reach New Areas With the Gospel

YOUR HEALTH SNAPSHOT – Take your own temperature

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Kingdom Allegiance

I prioritize my identity as a citizen of God's kingdom over my earthly nationality, career, or cultural background, and that priority visibly shapes my decisions.

1 2 3 4 5

Surrendering Self-Rule

I consciously resist the instinct to be king of my own life by choosing to submit to Jesus' authority in both significant decisions and daily choices.

1 2 3 4 5

Heavenly Investment

I invest my time, talents, and resources for eternal kingdom work rather than becoming emotionally attached to material comfort or earthly security.

1 2 3 4 5

Ambassador Conduct

My behavior, speech, and character in daily life consistently represent Christ's kingdom in a way that honors—rather than embarrasses—my King.

1 2 3 4 5

Gospel Mission

I actively share the Gospel with unbelievers, seeing myself as a soldier and ambassador whose calling is to invite others to be reconciled to God.

1 2 3 4 5

Kingdom Community

When I gather with my church, I approach it as meaningful fellowship with fellow citizens of God's kingdom, not simply as attending a religious event.

1 2 3 4 5

Eternal Perspective

I live with genuine hope in Christ's coming Kingdom, and that hope shapes how I navigate current struggles, priorities, and relationships.

1 2 3 4 5

After rating yourself: Which area scored lowest? Which scored highest? Bring both to your group—the strengths are worth celebrating, and the gaps are worth exploring together.

“...My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”

—Jesus, John 18:36 (ESV)

Church Health Survey

Seven Metaphors for Building a Healthy Church

Bride

The Big Idea

Healthy Churches Anticipate and Prepare for Christ's Return

YOUR HEALTH SNAPSHOT – Take your own temperature

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1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Always

Intimate Relationship	I cultivate a genuine bond with Christ through consistent prayer, worship, and spiritual connection—our lives feel genuinely intertwined rather than distant or transactional.	1	2	3	4	5
Eager Anticipation	I live with joyful expectation of Christ's return, seeing it as my blessed hope rather than an unwelcome interruption to my earthly plans and comforts.	1	2	3	4	5
Moral Purity	I actively pursue purity in my thoughts, affections, and actions—motivated by love for Christ and a desire to be unashamed when He returns.	1	2	3	4	5
Undivided Devotion	I guard against allowing good things—possessions, comforts, pleasures, or relationships—to draw my heart's primary affection away from Christ.	1	2	3	4	5
Righteous Living	I invest my time and energy in work that will have eternal value rather than in activities that feel productive but carry no lasting weight.	1	2	3	4	5
Evangelistic Urgency	I actively share the Gospel with the lost, understanding that every day Christ delays His return is another day of mercy extended to people who need to hear the Good News.	1	2	3	4	5
Readiness and Preparation	I regularly examine my heart and life so that I am genuinely ready for Christ's return—not fearful, but eager and prepared.	1	2	3	4	5

After rating yourself: Which area scored lowest? Which scored highest? Bring both to your group—the strengths are worth celebrating, and the gaps are worth exploring together.

“Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;”

—Revelation 19:7 (ESV)



Bring the Great Commission Home
