



Healthy Church Solutions

HOW TO UNDERSTAND YOUR CHURCH

What kind of church are you?

How well do you understand your church? Rick Warren wrote that “it takes all kinds of churches to reach all kinds of people.” What kind of church do you have? There are many ways to classify churches — by size, structure, worship style (traditional, blended, contemporary), doctrine/theology (conservative, liberal, moderate), geography (urban, suburban, rural) or economics (wealthy, working-class, poor).

Another way to look at your church is by style or type. Gene Mims wrote a book called, “The Seven Churches Not in the Book of Revelation,” in which he identifies seven types of churches. He stated that all of the churches he has experienced fall into one or a combination of these types. They are the University Church, the Arena Church, the Corporate Church, the Machine Church, the Family Chapel Church, the Legacy Church and the Community Center Church.

The University Church’s key focus is on “instructing” and the pastor is like a “professor.” The University pastor loves to study, preach and apply God’s Word. He is doctrinally sound and wants to take people deeper. This is a strong Bible-teaching, disciple-making church.

The Arena Church is very different. The key focus of the Arena Church is “experience” and the pastor is a “performer.” The Arena pastor is a great communicator. He is sensitive to what is happening

at the moment and connects with people emotionally.

The key to the Corporate Church is “vision” and the pastor operates like a CEO. The Corporate pastor has vision, is a great leader, motivates people, can effectively multi-task, has exceptional communication gifts, is purpose-driven and knows how to delegate. These churches tend to become Mega Churches.

The Machine Church has a key focus on “programs” and the pastor is a “manager.” The Machine Church pastor is hard-working, organized a good problem solver, loves challenges, builds buildings and organizations, and most are usually strong preachers.

The Family Chapel Church is the most common church in the world. The focus of this church is “relationships” and the pastor is a “chaplain.” The Family Chapel pastor is good at pastoral care, is always available, visits, counsels, has a big heart and loves people.

The Legacy Church has a great past but a discouraging present. The key to this church is “history” and the pastor is like a “curator” of a museum. The Legacy pastor has a respect for the past, is willing to build on someone else’s foundation and tries to keep things in perspective when thinking about the future.

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