

Why People Leave Church and What to do About It?

by Nelson Searcy

Introduction:

Why do people leave churches?

When somebody leaves, it _____.

Why do some churches grow and others don't?

- What are they _____ that you're not _____?
- What are you doing _____, than what they're doing?
- What have they _____ doing that _____ still doing?

"Growing churches spend very little time trying to reclaim people who have left and spend the majority of their time reaching new people."

Growing churches spend 80% of their time reaching new people and 20% of their time reclaiming people who have left.

Spend 20% of your time asking why do people leave your church.

Two types of people who leave your church:

1. The people you want to _____.
2. The people you want to _____.

Why the people you want to keep leave and what can you do about it.

1. _____

There are people who fit in your church and there are people who don't fit in your church.

Who are the people that we can best reach because of our style and our structure?

It takes all kinds of _____ to reach all kinds of _____.

What do you do:

- You can _____ them and allow them to leave.
- You can recommit to your _____.
- Examine your _____.

You don't get to reach who you want. You get to reach who you are.

2. _____

Matthew 13
Parable of the Sower

"Most of the time people who leave because of sin will not tell you."

Blaise Pascal's Congruence Principle: There must be congruence between beliefs and behavior.

It's very difficult for a person to go too long for their behavior to not match their beliefs. A person will either have to adjust their behavior or their beliefs.

What do you do:

- Examine the culture of your church to make sure it's a culture of _____.
- Keep the _____ _____ after they leave.

Do not conduct an _____ _____.

- Keep them on your _____.

3. _____

What are the _____ interruptions that people face in my church?

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What do you do:

- _____ the interruption _____.

Walk your church through the interruptions of life.

Train your group leaders to share with you about the interruptions of people's lives.

- Reach out to the person and _____ them and offer grace.
- You can utilize 'Big Days' to _____ people.

The Big Day is an all out push to reach new people for Christ and break a growth barrier.

4. _____

What do you do:

- Create an atmosphere where the church is made up of

_____.

- Be quick to _____ forgiveness if you're the one _____ forgiveness.

Romans 12:18

¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Matthew 5:23-24

²³Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

Recommended Reading:

The Peacemaker by Ken Sande

Total Forgiveness by RT Kendall

As Christians, we give up our right to be _____.

- _____ to _____.

5. _____

"You have seven minutes to make a first impression." Fusion: Turning First Time Guests into Fully Engaged Members of Your Church by Nelson Searcy

"You have seven weeks to help people friendships otherwise they'll leave."

The Purpose Driven Church by Rick Warren

In most churches there is a lack of _____ within the church.

The Assimilation Seminar by Nelson Searcy

What do you do:

- _____ on biblical fellowship.

Three areas of in your church that will help people build relationships:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Resource recommendation: The Activate Seminar

There are two types of people in your church:

6. _____

Church provides a _____.

We must offer _____ and _____ .

What do you do:

- Utilize _____
- _____ but _____ things
- _____

Conclusion:

Spend 80% of your time reaching new people.

Spend 20% of your time reclaiming people.