

Seven Marks of Vital Congregations

Click on the graphics below to view the devotional page for each mark.



LIFELONG Discipleship Formation VS. Complacent "Christian" piety, simply teaching good morals or offering the latest programs.

"The righteousness that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness of God based on faith." Phil. 3:9b



Intentional Authentic Evangelism VS. "Jesus freaks"; "Christian" Hypocrisy; A committee.

"We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God." 2 Cor. 4:7



Outward Incarnational Focus VS. Inward Institutional Survival; Closed communities of assimilation/exclusion.

"The gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it." Matt. 7:14



Empower Servant Leadership VS. the Pastor's job; monopolized leadership; hiring the young energetic pastor

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers." Matt. 9:37-38.



Spirit-Inspired Worship VS. Self-gratifying worship, stale ritual divorced of meaning, or consumer entertainment worship

"These people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote." Isaiah 29:13



Caring Relationships VS. Any other Social Club; façades, hypocrisy, and judgment of "church" and "religion."

"By this, everyone will know that you are disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35



Ecclesial Health VS. Unhealthy dysfunction; toxic environments; obsolete and irrelevant buildings

"The body does not consist of one member but of many. God has so arranged the body that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another." 1 Cor. 12:14, 24b-25