



## **THE CHURCH FOUNDATION:** **IS THE CHURCH FOUNDATION REALLY SPEAKING TO THE LOST?**

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Have a discussion with your Staff about reaching the lost inside your church. Is the foundation we lay really solid inside the church? What does that look like? Many times we say that “it’s our tradition” here to do things like communion or tithing. Is that good enough because it’s tradition? Don’t get me wrong, tradition is very good. However, is tradition for the sake “of” or “because” it makes us deeper Christians? Is a lost person in your church finding Jesus in your tradition or feeling excluded because of your tradition?

Yes it is a lot of questions. I realize a meeting is only so long. I am just trying to break up the stagnant bias we have against talking about what we do in church. I don’t think church is broke, but church might need to examine why they do what they do. Are we building foundation or maintaining foundation? There should be a big difference. Jesus mentions

building on a foundation not sandbagging in a storm. There is a storm outside your church. Do you know that? Are you sandbagging what you have left or are you strengthening your foundation to withstand?

This section is about your church foundation. The seven questions below are to make conversation with honesty. Talk about your church. Why do you do what you do? God would most certainly want you to make church a “disciple making building.” Are the lost found when a solid foundation seeks them? I believe it is. The lost will accept your truth if it’s solid. If your truth changes with the world it’s not solid, is it. Jesus said “do this in remembrance of me.” Jesus is asking us to remember why Jesus did, what Jesus stood for, and why Jesus wanted us to remember. Don’t just do foundational stuff, but build upon the rock of Christ.

**1. IS THE CHURCH REALLY A HERALD TO THE WORLD?**

Matthew 13:1 Jesus says to the crowd on the beach “Listen.” Is the message from your church to the saved or unsaved? If you were honest, is the message from your church speaking the gospel to the lost? What is the message your church is saying to the world? I don’t mean the overall message, but honestly, is your church’s actions a gospel message? Can I hear anything outside your doors coming from inside your doors?

**2. WHAT MESSAGE IS YOUR CHURCH USING TO GET THE GOSPEL OUT?**

Is your message consistent, bible truth, and enticing to the world? Enticing means: smart and querying. Confused? Yes that is it. Jesus used parables that begged the question “what are you talking about”? The world can either roll their eyes at you or question your statements. What is the better option?

### **3. WHO IS THE CHURCH REALLY SPEAKING TO?**

Is your message to the saved or the lost? Sorry you can't have both. Once at Christmas a church invited the lost to a play. Before the show began the pastor asked the lost to tune out for a minute while he talked finances to the membership. Sorry pastor but the lost were listening too. They were asking inside their minds and hearts "is it all about money with you guys"? Focus on the message please. Who are you speaking too and what are you saying?

### **4. DO WE COME TO CHURCH TO BE ENTERTAINED?**

We need to talk about this one. I interned at a church that would have never in a million years given me an opportunity to preach. Because I sucked? No, because only polished professionals get to speak. Who is fault is that? I say the congregation. They demand good, funny, and wise sermons. Pastors in private contemplate words that don't offend, words that entice, and words that are interesting. They know their audience. If a pastor just spoke the word of God would he or she be eating their words before long "literally"? I bet they would be fired for lack of stage presence before too long. I get the entertain thing, but is the message your wit or God's word?

### **5. ARE WE REALLY WILLING TO SPEAK THE BIBLE TRUTH?**

What if I want to talk about God's view on the gay issue? Can I or would I be advised to think wisely about doing so in church? Our culture is different now, so our message must change with the times. Should it? If God is consistent "forever" then why aren't we? Ask yourselves around the room: should our message reflect the changing times or Gods consistent word?

**6. IS THE CHURCH SCATTERING ITSELF AMONG THE THORNS?**

Matthew 13:37 says "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one." This is tough to take. We are the good seed that Jesus tosses into the thorns. I am going to assume this: the church is the body of Jesus, so the people in the body are the good seed. Is your church as "Christ" tossing good people in among the thorns?

**7. ARE WE CREATING GOOD SEED IN THE CHURCH?**

Matthew 13:30 "Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." This is intentional by Jesus. His followers are thrown into the field of thorns and wheat. Of course you say "you are growing your followers by preaching and teaching them." Ask yourselves: are you confident that you can throw your church into the world and that they are solid and strong enough to: survive, grow, and affect the thorns?