

The background features several concentric circles in light gray, some solid and some dashed, creating a ripple effect. A large red speech bubble with a white outline is centered on the page, containing the main text.

The Marks of a Healthy New Church

It all starts with the head.

*Heal the sick who are there and tell them,
'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'* Luke 9:10 NIV

The church of the Lord is a healing community in the midst of a weak and sick society. The church's agenda, among other things, is to bring health and strength to a wounded world. Healthy churches have the capacity to heal sick individuals, families and communities.

Statistics

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Healthy Leaders

...full of the Spirit and
wisdom. Acts 6:3 NIV

A healthy leader:

- **Manages conflicts with love and wisdom**
- **Is consistent in words and actions (integrity)**
- **Promotes genuine fellowship**
- **Possesses an authentic spirit of service**
- **Inspires, motivates and teaches**
- **Accepts and respects other ideas**
- **Considers their collaborators a support group and not their “property”**
- **Recognizes their errors and weaknesses**
- **Is a friend of humility and rejects pride and arrogance**
- **Does not seek fame or recognition but rather the well-being of the group**

No Second-Class Citizens

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
Galatians 3:28 NIV

Healthy Churches Understand:

- That in Christ there is no favoritism
- That the Lord has brought us from diverse places and backgrounds to form on people and one family
- That in Christ we are one community that share responsibilities and privileges
- That unique spaces and fair treatment for all individuals in all sectors of the congregation generates unity.

**What place do the following groups occupy in our congregations?*

Children, youth, men, women, elders, rich, poor, professionals, citizens, undocumented, single mothers, ex-convicts, AIDS patients and new believers, etc.

Spirit of Celebration

The Lord has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.

Psalms 118:24

The ability to count your blessings.

A healthy church thrives in the art of counting your blessings. In the life of a healthy church there is no room for complaints, protests or accusations, but only room for celebration. The church that does not celebrate is destined to fail.

Healthy Churches Celebrate:

- The love and grace of God
- The divine and continual protection of God over the people
- The new life and salvation in Jesus
- That the Lord has been faithful to this very day
- Other reasons to celebrate_____.

Sense of Humor

Always be full of joy in the Lord; I say it again, rejoice! Philippians 4:4

According to humor theorists, laughter is the best, most inexpensive medicine that exists.

PEOPLE WHO HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR:

- Are more tolerant of others
- Are better equipped to face difficulties
- Have better mental/physical health and reduced levels of stress

PHYSICAL HEALTH BENEFITS OF LAUGHTER:

- The lungs can multiply their oxygen receptor capacity by four.
- The gastric juices increase their quantity which improves digestion
- The heart beats faster accelerating blood circulation, slightly lowering blood pressure.
- The brain, releases endorphins producing analgesic processes and adrenaline that makes us alert.

BENEFITS OF HUMOR IN THE CHURCH:

- Pastors are more relaxed during sermons
- Leaders have more peace while serving
- Conflicts are managed with less stress
- Programs flow more freely
- Groups and ministries work in harmony
- The Kingdom of God can be built free of anxiety and worry

A cheerful heart does good like medicine, but a broken spirit makes one sick. Proverbs 17:22

“The human race has one really effective weapon, and that is *laughter*.”

-Mark Twain

Discovering and Accepting God's Will

May your Kingdom come. May
your will be done on earth, as it is
in heaven. Matthew 6:10 NLT

Overcoming the “I don’t like it like that” syndrome

- 21st century western culture is characterized by complacency. Each person and group are seeking to be pleased.
- The culture of complacency sabotages God's plan in our life. Healthy churches have discovered that God has his ways, methods and timing to fulfill his will.

Dreaming of the Future

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:18-19

**Remaining in the past
will stunt and paralyze
growth. Those who
march towards the
future flourish and
conquer.**

OBSTACLES TO MOVING FORWARD:

- Routine
- Tradition
- Lack of creativity
- Laziness
- “Comfort zone”
- Lack of spiritual awareness

God moves his people towards the future so churches who move in that direction are in harmony with God's divine plans. A healthy church is thankful for past blessings but is constantly preparing to receive and enjoy God's new mercies.

“Decadent men and people live remembering where they come from; Great men and strong people just need to know where they are going.” -José Ingenieros