

WARREN 2000
CHARACTERISTICS OF HEALTHY CHURCHES

Energising faith

Christ centred, talking about God, coming as worshippers

Outward looking

Whole life focus, working for change, living and sharing the faith

Listening to God

Praying about priorities, discerning what to do

Facing the cost of change and growth

Addressing the need, embracing sacrifice and new ventures with hope

Enabling leadership

Leadership as service, working collaboratively, permission-giving

Having a participative laity

Involving many, many eager to serve, all contributions welcomed

Being a loving community

Faith, diversity celebrated, real conversations, people valued

Faith as a life long journey

Discovery, disciples on a journey, holiness

Practices what it preaches

Sign of the Kingdom, gospel driven, distinctive, flexible structures

Doing a few things well

Clear priorities, cope with not doing things, relaxed yet focussed



Is your church ...
Growing
Effective
Healthy...
and not worrying
about money?



If the answer is 'no' then read on. This little booklet won't do these things for you but it might help spark things off. The first part relates to giving - nothing too heavy but be prepared to be challenged. The second part simply lists...

Common Characteristics of 'Growing Churches'
(Schwarz 1998)

Habits of Highly Effective Churches
(Barna 1999)

Characteristics of 'Healthy Churches'
(Warren 2000)

*Produced for the Winchester Diocese by the Christian Stewardship Department,
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**A challenging question for all of us is...
"Where are you with your Christian Giving?"**

Take a look at the triangle opposite. Imagine this triangle as your church then think about where you are with your giving. For many giving starts out of '**SELF INTEREST**'. For example, they like the look of the local Church building and want to help maintain it. There may be some belief in God, perhaps attending church at Christmas and Easter. Hence the reason for placing self interest giving inside and outside the triangle. As we walk further down our journey of discipleship we start '**GIVING TO NEEDS**'. (Perhaps recognising the need of a particular appeal.) As our faith develops we begin '**NEEDING TO GIVE**'. Now as we acknowledge and embrace scripture and draw closer to Christ we start to reach '**SPIRITUAL OBEDIENCE**' with our giving and we tithe. As we deepen in our love of God our giving develops further to feel '**SPIRITUAL JOY**'. Ultimately as we open our heart fully to God and we give out of '**LOVE**'.

**BARNA 1999
HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE CHURCHES**

Strategic leadership

Focused responsibilities, delegated decisions, driver of change

Organisation

Broad involvement in decisions and activities, good evaluation

Significant relationships

Based on common 'Christ' link, believers work at loving each other

Genuine worship

Experience of God's presence; part of a whole life connection

Strategic evangelism

Matching people and methods most likely to work

Systematic theological growth

Planned approaches to the journeys of people; links with life

Holistic stewardship practices

Money is taught as part of the wholeness of being a Christian

Serving the community

Work at needs of others; social action vital; leadership lead

Equipping members

Practical support for all; openness to the issues of family life

SCHWARZ 1998
COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF 'GROWING
CHURCHES'

Empowering Leadership

Focus on relationships, people and partnerships

Gift orientated ministry

Active in discerning spiritual gifts and allowing them to bloom

Passionate Spirituality

Contagious enthusiasm, irrespective of style

Functional Structures

Dealing with opportunity, always challenging, removing blockages

Inspiring Worship

People are 'inspired' by what takes place

Holistic small groups

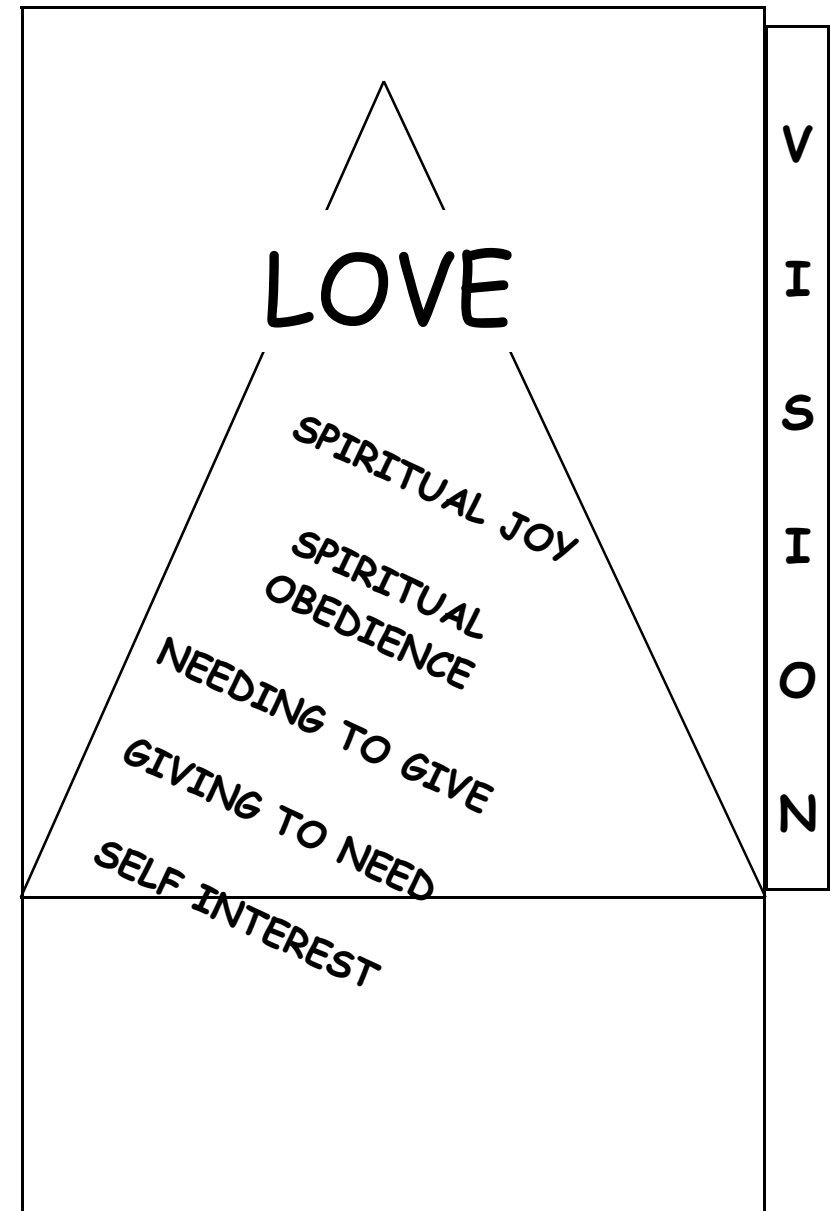
Change, affirmation, new growth; all occur in small groups

Evangelism

Done by the gifted, owned and supported by the whole

Loving relationships

Less friction, greater real sharing, spending time together



Common Views of Stewardship

Which view is dominant in our current Church? Which bits are most present in your life?

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
<i>Thoughts about prosperity</i>	Non Materialistic	It is the reward of the righteous	It is OK with God to pursue family pleasures	We are given things on trust from God in different degrees
<i>Material things are</i>	A Curse	A Reward	A Right	A Privilege
<i>Purchases should be</i>	Lowest Quality	Top Quality	Quantity	Wisest
<i>Model Text</i>	Sell all & give to the poor. Luke 18:18-22	Ask, seek, knock Matthew 7: 7-8	Family care Infidel 1 Timothy 5:8	Parable of the talents Matthew 25:14
<i>Needs are met by...</i>	What needs?	Seed faith. Give to get.	Credit Borrowing	Faithful use of what you have
<i>Primary role</i>	Rejector	Owner	Accumulator	Manager
<i>Focus of attention</i>	Heaven	Money	Comfort Convenience	Discernment
<i>Attitude Summary</i>	Carefree Proverbs 3:5-6	Driven Proverbs 10:17	Entangled Mark 4:19	Faithful Luke 15:10-11