



**bits from bob.....**

**Healthy Churches: Members, Maturity, Membership, Mutuality, Ministry, Mission  
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In ministry, some things must never change, other things must change constantly. In the local church, to develop healthy churches, the same is true. God's purpose for the church is non-negotiable. The biblical descriptions of the activities of the early church should be studied, understood, duplicated. What did the early church do? Here is the list with the NT Greek word in parenthesis: evangelism (euaggelion), discipleship (kerygma), worship (leitourgia), fellowship (koinonia), and ministry or service (diakonia). Is the contemporary church doing these same things? Is this a description of the local church where you attend?

Another way to say it: the healthy church is diligent in these areas. A healthy church balances these activities and does not get distracted by other things.

**MEMBERS**, evangelism, finding, identifying, making disciples, developing members individually

**MATURITY**, maturing disciples, continued teaching, education, discipleship

**MEMBERSHIP**, continue to develop disciples, spirituality, this is worship, this is the shared spiritual life

**MUTUALITY**, fellowship, sharing, this is attitude and action, a healthy context for ministry and mission

**MINISTRY**, service to one another, service to others

**MISSION**, transfer these five ideas to a new place, church planting, establishing more churches that are healthy, facilitating evangelism in new places

If I could begin again....

Evangelism is for me the unspoken always-present purpose of the church

Develop your influence in the lives of others, how to evangelize: develop your influence in the lives of others!

The HOW of local church life?

Build relationships (with preacher, with leaders, with one another); influence with one another, since the goal is maturity

Make sure something happens in worship, membership development, spiritual growth

Make sure something happens in Bible classes, discipleship training, equipping; small groups

Every member a minister, provide opportunities, mentor, train, walk alongside

Evangelism/missions, keep the focus, maintain the focus