

Evaluation?

The idea of having someone evaluate you as a leader and pastor or evaluate the ministry of your church can be frightening and intimidating. Who in their right mind would invite personal or ministry critique? Some would argue that we should not evaluate the church or its people because it is a spiritual, not a secular, undertaking. Only God should appraise a spiritual ministry such as a church. I would argue that we must not allow fear and personal feelings of intimidation to get in the way of honest, objective feedback. That a ministry is a spiritual endeavor is more an argument for than against healthy critique.

With that in mind, here is one of a series of thoughts on evaluation – in this case, with an eye toward the outreach potential of your ministries.

Is an existing program or ministry at your church ripe for an outreach makeover -- or burial? Here are 10 questions to help you decide:

1. Is the basic objective of this program “To reach people for Christ”?
2. How many people now participate? (percentage of church members)
3. What percentage of participants is non-Christian or unchurched?
4. Who is this program designed to reach?
5. What are their greatest needs?
6. On a scale of 1-10, how effective is this program in meeting its evangelistic objective?
7. If you ended or significantly restructured this program, what would happen?
8. If you ended or significantly restructured this program, who would be upset? Why?
9. What is an idea that would be more effective than what you’re currently doing to build relationships with these people and help them find Christ?
10. How would the people in your current ministry feel if they saw people coming to Christ as a result of this new ministry?

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