

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

When churches try to do too much, the “win” becomes muddy, and the church becomes complex. Churches drift into this “complexity is better” mindset for a few different reasons.

1. Pressure to provide programs based on needs.
  2. individuals have build their identity around a ministry, not a mission
  3. Churches feel the fallout of eliminating certain programs.
- Hang from string

There are some changes that can be made to help narrow your focus. First, simplify. Make sure that every ministry is aiming to do one or two things really well.

Kill what’s working. Sometimes you may need to eliminate something that’s working so something better can take its place.

The fourth practice is to Teach Less for More.

People don’t truly learn something until they need it. We should teach people what they need to know, when they need to know it.

There’s 4 steps to teaching less for more. One, decide what you are going to say. Next, decide to say one thing at a time. If people are flooded with information, they won’t apply anything. Three, decide how you are going to say it; and four, say it over and over again.

Why churches teach more for less:

- it’s easier
- they have bought into the myth of going deep
- they worry about not having enough to say
- they fear they will leave something out

The first four practices focus on changes that need to be made to the church as an organization. The last three focus on changes that need to be made to the leadership of the church.

Number five, Leader need to start Listening to Outsiders.

Did you know that up until 1971, all World Series games were played during the mid-afternoon? In 1971, the Baseball Commissioner decided that if they wanted to reach more people on TV, they would need to move the game back until more fans were off work.

They listened to the “outsiders” and the ratings went through the roof. After that night all weekday games would be played at night! It’s true... It’s on Wikipedia!

As pastors and leaders, we tend to forget what it’s like to be a first-timer. We are slow to make changes because we think things seems to be working.

However, there may be things that need to be adjusted in order to reach outsiders. Almost 100 million Americans are unchurched. That is a ton of people!

Why aren’t they in church? Maybe its because most churches put their focus on trying to keep the insiders and don’t focus on gaining more outsiders.

The sixth practice is to Replace Yourself.

You’re not immortal and there will come a day when you will no longer be able to lead your church or ministry. You have 2 choices, really.

One, You can leave it to the next guy to figure it out and hope everything goes well.

Dumb idea

or 2. You can train someone to do what you do and pass the torch.

Smart idea

There's 3 steps to a successful handoff.

First, break it down. Write down what it is you do. It will be easier to teach someone, if you know what it is you are teaching.

Scene: Write down points on board in back

Second, hand it off and actually let them do it. Sure, they will make mistakes but hopefully they'll learn from them and move on.

Finally, let it go. Don't hold on tightly to the past. Allow them to own the mission and vision and let them take it forward.

The last practice is to Work on It.

If you don't take this time to evaluate, you will gradually veer off course and not even notice.

You must create time in your schedule to step back and review everything and that things are still running smoothly. Go back and make sure that all ministries and events are in line with the first 6 practices.