

Nine Marks of a Healthy Church
Expositional Preaching
2 Timothy 4:1-5

Back in the 1990s, the concept of church growth became very popular. Pastors began writing books about how their church grew and the methods they used to increase the attractiveness of their Sunday morning gatherings. Many Southern Baptists began embracing a theology of church growth that focused on catering to the sociological dynamics of large group gatherings. The underlying supposition to the whole church growth movement was very simple: healthy churches grow.

1. Preach the Word because Christ is coming.

2. Preach the Word because we need sound doctrine.

3. Preach the Word because only it evangelizes.

Expositional preaching is not boring doctrinal lectures. At least it shouldn't be. It is preaching that is laser-focused in God's Word, engages doctrinal truth at various levels, and eventually calls people to repentance and issues an invitation to conversion. Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." He didn't just say go preach. He told us what to preach. We are to preach the gospel. What is the source of our understanding of the gospel? It is God's Word.

For further consideration

What do you think are the marks of a healthy church? If you were to consider the different aspects of the church that keep you coming, where would you place expositional preaching? What do you expect out of being involved in a church? If you have left a church in the past, what was your reason for doing so? What do you think is more important, style of music or style of preaching when it comes to the health of a church? What do you think the preaching of God's Word is intended to do for you and in you? How can you prepare yourself so that the preaching of God's Word can do what it is intended to do in your life?