



## how to find a church

(Adapted from *What is a Healthy Church*, Mark Dever)

### Critical Do's:

1. Pray
2. Seek counsel from a godly pastor (or from elders).
3. Keep your priorities straight.
  - a) The gospel must be truly affirmed, clearly preached, and faithfully lived out. A serious lack of any of these expressions of the gospel is very dangerous.
  - b) The preaching must be faithful to Scripture, personally challenging, and central to the congregation's life. You will only grow spiritually where Scripture is treated as the highest authority.
  - c) Also very important is to consider how the church regulates baptism, the Lord's Supper, church membership, church discipline, and who has the final say in decision making.
4. Ask yourself diagnostic questions such as:
  - a) Would I want to find a spouse who has been brought up under this church's teaching?
  - b) What picture of Christianity will my children see in this church – something distinct of something a lot like the world?
  - c) Would I be happy to invite non-Christians to this church? That is, would they clearly hear the gospel and see lives consistent with it? Does the church have a heart for welcoming and reaching non-Christians?
  - d) Is this church a place where I can minister and serve?
5. Consider geography.
  - a) Would the church's physical proximity to your home encourage or discourage frequent involvement and service?
  - b) If you're moving to a new area, try to locate a good church home before you buy a house (or rent an apartment).

### Critical Don'ts:

1. Don't look for a church where you can get along with everyone.
2. Don't look for a church full of people like you.
3. Don't look for a church that is trying to avoid the influence of culture thus acting as a safe haven for believers.



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4. Don't look for a church that does not have a statement of faith.
5. Don't look for a church that thinks leadership is based on age, experience, and putting in your time.
6. Don't look for a church that is more focused on events and program over true, authentic community involving both Christians and non-Christians.
7. Don't look for a church that has the best preaching or music.
8. Don't look for a church that you can "go to."