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What Is A Healthy Church? (IX Marks) (9 Marks Of A Healthy Church)



Synopsis

What is an ideal church, and how can you tell? How does it look different from other churches? More importantly, how does it act differently, especially in society? Many of us aren't sure how to answer those questions, even though we probably have some preconceived idea. But with this book, you don't have to wonder any more. Author Mark Dever seeks to help believers recognize the key characteristics of a healthy church: expositional preaching, biblical theology, and a right understanding of the gospel. Dever then calls us to develop those characteristics in our own churches. By following the example of New Testament authors and addressing church members from pastors to pew sitters, Dever challenges all believers to do their part in maintaining the local church. "What Is a Healthy Church?" offers timeless truths and practical principles to help each of us fulfill our God-given roles in the body of Christ.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mark Dever (PhD, Cambridge University) is the senior pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, DC, and president of 9Marks (9Marks.org). Dever has authored over a dozen books and speaks at conferences nationwide.

I am reading this book with some of the leaders of my church. Good book for both leaders and regular church members to look at as they think about what makes a healthy church. Well done.

In a day when the trend seems to be to lower the bar and orient the church for the unbeliever, Dever challenges the church to return to biblical priorities. Each of his principles is drawn from Scripture and Scriptures are emphasized throughout. My only concern was his characterization of God's sovereignty and salvation. He seemed to say that anyone who did not believe in unconditional election did not have a proper view of salvation and should be denied church membership. A little strong in my opinion. However, this should not discourage someone from reading this book. It's too important to neglect.

What does it mean to be a healthy biblical New Testament church? Many members and some pastors fail to realize, or have never been taught, what the church should look like and what the responsibility is of each member. Mr. Dever does a good job of explaining both in this easy to read book.

This book has challenged me as a pastor to reflect on what the church I am committed to teach and serve is expressing biblically and how that affects the people inside and outside of. A great practical way of examining yourself and your church

Great Read!!!!

This book is essentially a condensed version of "Nine Marks of a Healthy Church" by Mark Dever - Pastor of a Large Conservative Baptist Church in Washington D.C. What makes this book valuable is the concise presentation of the nine practices that make for a healthy church. It is a good resource for a church staff, elder board, deacon board, or small group to go through. I used it to teach through the "nine marks" in an adult Sunday school class in the church where I am the senior pastor. The Nine Marks of a Healthy Church are as follows: 1) Expository Preaching 2) Biblical Theology 3) A Biblical Understanding of the Good News 4) A Biblical Understanding of Conversion 5) A Biblical Understanding of Evangelism 6) A Biblical Understanding of Membership 7) Biblical Church Discipline 8) Biblical Discipleship and Growth 9) Biblical Church Leadership. I think that any church that focuses on these areas is going to be pretty solid. However, it doesn't guarantee health. I think character and emotional health come into play as well - e.g. - 1 Corinthians 13 talks about love being an essential quality of the church; also, many churches have good doctrine, infrastructure, and do all the above, but live in a false peace (see Peter Scazzero's - The Emotionally Healthy Church). Overall, I recommend this little book as an introductory primer as a good evaluation tool,

containing specific areas for local churches to have a good "check list" of ideas and practices to shoot for as they seek to be more Biblical in what they do when they gather together as a local church body. For more detail then what Dever writes in this book - I would recommend the slightly larger book - Nine Marks of a Healthy Church.

Easy to understand. Very informative to those seeking a healthy church home, or used by leaders to see into the heart of their own congregations.

My husband and I are reading this book together. I don't agree with everything but, it is based on very sound principles. What surprised me the most so far is even after you leave a church the pastor still needs your support.

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