

Twenty Questions You Should Ask Yourself Before Starting a Church

1. Is my primary motivation for considering church planting a positive one (such as the glory of God and the salvation of people) and not dissatisfaction with my present situation? YES NO
2. Do I believe that church planting is the primary God-ordained strategy by which He accomplishes His will, advances His kingdom and glorifies His name? YES NO
3. Do I believe and experience the gospel as the “power of God” not only to save me from sin’s penalty but also from sin’s domineering power over my life? YES NO
4. Do I share the gospel with the unchurched on a regular basis, and can I point to people who have made professions of faith and are still walking with Christ as a result of my witness? YES NO
5. Have I had enough exposure to church planting in a ministry focus group similar to what I am considering that I know what the life of a church planter is like? YES NO
6. Am I assured of God’s call on my life to church planting instead of being a pastor of a church? YES NO
7. Do I have the experiences necessary and needed to do church planting effectively? YES NO
8. Can I articulate clearly what my gifts and personal characteristics are that would make me effective in church planning in the type of community I’m considering? YES NO
9. Is there objective evidence that I am comfortable relating well with unchurched people and able to accept them joyfully into my life and the community of faith? YES NO
10. Is my spouse and family willing, even enthusiastic, about our doing church planting? YES NO
11. Do I have a gospel-confidence (both lamb-like humility AND lion-like boldness) that, in light of my proven ministry experience, gifts, and skills, I will be effective in church planting? YES NO
12. Do I have the spiritual disciplines (consistent personal worship, good accountability relationships) necessary for being a spiritual leader truly above reproach? YES NO

13. Do I display self-management disciplines (getting work done on time, keeping commitments. Consistency, honesty)that will encourage followers to trust my leadership? YES NO
14. Have I developed a relatively comprehensive vision (values, mission, philosophy of ministries, gather strategies, etc.) of the kind of church I want to plant? YES NO
15. Am I considered a “people person” someone who is humble, a good listener, teachable, patient, sensitive, and winsome? YES NO
16. Do people tend to sit up, listen and come back when I preach – giving evidence that my preaching and communication gifts are special strengths (above average)? YES NO
17. Do spiritually wise, influential people in my life tell me that church planting is a right fit for me? YES NO
18. Have I have a positive track record in the church ministries I have led – giving strong evidence of my ability both to lead people AND raise up leaders? YES NO
19. Do I have a sincere passion for church planting? Is church planting compatible with my personal career goals or is it seen as merely a “stepping stone” to some other ministry in the future? YES NO
20. Understanding the gifts and skills of a church planter usually include being a visionary leader, effective evangelist, and an above average Christ-centered preacher, do I have these endowments? YES NO

Am I a Church Planter?

If you answered 16 or more with a YES ---- *probably so*

If you answered 10-15 with a YES -----*think, pray and talk to others some more before moving in that direction*

IF you answered less than 10 with a YES -----*probably not*