

Twenty-One Questions You Should Ask Yourself Before Considering 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?
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?
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?
4. Do I share the gospel with non-believers 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?
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?
6. Am I assured of God's call on my life to church planting instead of to church pastoring?
7. Do I have the necessary training needed to do church planting effectively?
8. Can I articulate clearly what my gifts and personal characteristics are that would make me effective in church planting in the type of community I'm considering?
9. Am I committed to reaching people who are different from me ethnically, racially, generationally, and socio-economically?
10. Is there objective evidence that I am comfortable relating well with secular people (non-believers) and able to accept them joyfully into my life and the community of faith?
11. Is my spouse and family willing, even enthusiastic, about our doing church planting?
12. 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?
13. Do I have the spiritual disciplines (consistent personal worship, freedom from patterns of besetting sin, good accountability relationships) necessary for being a spiritual leader truly above reproach?
14. Do I display self-management disciplines (getting work done on time, keeping commitments, consistency, honesty) that will encourage followers to trust my leadership?
15. Have I developed a relatively comprehensive vision (values, mission, philosophy of ministries, gathering strategies, etc.) of the kind of church I want to plant in my ministry focus group?

16. Am I considered a "people person", someone who is humble, a good listener, teachable, patient, sensitive, and winsome?
17. 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)?
18. Do spiritually wise, influential people in my life tell me that church planting is a right fit for me?
19. Have I had 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?
20. 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 "steppingstone" to some other ministry in the future?
21. 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?

Am I a Church Planter?

If you answered 17 or more with a yes – probably so.

If you answered 10-16 with a yes – think, pray and talk to others some more before moving in that direction.

Less than 10 – possibly not.