





CHURCH



The Seven "Laws" of Real Church Growth

What is relevant

Connected with the matter at hand

If I want to be relevant, then I must figure out a way to connect what I am doing to what is being done

The idea is very close to the word applicable which can mean appropriate or relevant, but the better definition is capable of being applied

I see the biggest difference between the two as relevant is about connecting it to what is popular, applicable is putting what is truth to use

What is relevant

Connected with the matter at hand

The church is trying and has tried many things to be “relevant” with mixed results on being “relevant” but with definite impact on growth in the wrong direction.

The Law of Power: Real church growth is powered by the gospel, not relevance

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The Empowering Gospel

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.

Romans 1:16-17

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What is the Gospel? – “Good News”

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.”



It is not supposed to induce fear

It should bring great joy

It is for all people

Luke 2:10

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What is the Gospel? – “Good News”

“The Gospel” is God’s plan to fix what happened in the Garden in Genesis

Is the Gospel still relevant today?



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Relevance Changes Over Time

For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

2 Timothy 4:3

I can't make the Gospel "relevant" for the sake of relevance

Jesus tells us most will not be interested

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It's not about Relevance but Application

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

Matthew 7:13-14

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Who is the Narrow Gate?

I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture.

John 10:9

**We must place faith in Jesus the gate
That faith restores the relationship
Notice there is a come in and go out**

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The Gospel so Powerful is it still Applicable

It is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile

Romans 6:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

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It Starts with God!

When Jesus was explaining things to Nicodemus he began "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son"

Paul starts "It is the power of God"

God still exists, he still loves, he still desires a relationship with us

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It's Still Open to All

Jesus says Whoever and references the world

Paul follows his lead with everyone first to the Jew then to the Gentile

Not everyone will follow but following is open to everyone

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Believes

The important thing is we must respond to God's plan

Jesus paid it all and offers himself freely, but you must accept the payment

In accepting the gift, you also accept the responsibility to follow

This is the concept of Lordship

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Restored Relationship

Jesus says shall not perish

Paul uses the word salvation

Sin still exists, people can't save themselves from the condemnation of sin, **we must accept a savior**

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Whole Life Policy

**Jesus is not just a savior for when I die
(Life Insurance)**

**Nor just a savior with I have an accident
(Car Insurance)**

**He is a savior to help me live a healthy life
(Health Assurance)**

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Ashamed of the Gospel?

Ashamed: reluctant to do something through fear of embarrassment or humiliation

By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:2



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Only the Gospel will give the church its Power to Grow

For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

1 Corinthians 9:16

