

The Nine Practices of a Missional Church*

1. Have a high threshold for membership

Members know what is expected of them, especially in terms of joining, giving, and serving. They have a high level of commitment to the church and its mission.

2. Be real, not real religious

Members don't "wear masks" with one another. They trust one another and reach out to others. Unchurched people feel comfortable around them.

3. Teach to obey rather than to know

Members don't stop with "head knowledge"; they put their faith into practice by finding concrete, specific ways to love God and others.

4. Rewrite worship every week

Missional churches focus their worship on "an audience of one." They use a team to plan, incorporate all the senses in worship, and welcome innovation.

5. Live apostolically

Members know that they have been "sent as Christ was sent to love the world God loves." Every member is a missionary who lives on the mission field.

6. Expect to change the world

Members believe their church can make a major difference in the world. The question is not "whether," but "how."

7. Order actions according to purposes

Members are very clear about the church's purpose, and schedule and budget only those things that help them fulfill it.

8. Measure growth by capacity to release, not retain

Missional churches are eager to send members out to start new churches, missions, and ministries.

9. Place kingdom concerns first

Members are more concerned about building up the Kingdom than their church. They intentionally partner with other Christians and churches.

*From the book, *Shaped by God's Heart: The Passion and Practices of Missional Churches*, by Milfred Manireta, Director of the Missional Church Center for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.