

# What is a “Good” Church?

Class 4: November 26, 2023

## Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Orthodoxy (Doctrine)</u>	<u>Orthopraxy (Practice)</u>
• 11/5/23	Worship & *Preaching	Nurture Christlikeness
• 11/12/23	Mission [“Wrap-Around Ministry”]	Nurture Service
• 11/19/23	*Sacraments	Nurture Grace
• <b>11/26/23</b>	<b>Community &amp; Fellowship</b>	<b>Nurture Empathy</b>
• 12/3/23	*Discipline	Nurture Truth
• 12/10/23	Government & Leadership	Nurture People
• 12/17/23	Prayer & Repentance	Nurture Justice
• 12/24/23	<i>NO MEETING</i>	
• 12/31/23	<i>Food &amp; Fellowship Day</i>	
• 1/7/24	<i>New Series begins</i>	

## Nurture Empathy

**Prov. 4:23**

**Matt. 12:34-35**

**1 Pet. 1:22**

“The heart is the control center of life. It is the place where God works to change us and the place we also must work if growth is to take place... God works his renewal in and through our heart... The heart is who we are. It is the seat of our thoughts, emotions, and actions. Understanding the heart will help us grasp the process of our transformation” (Robert Saucy, *Minding the Heart: The Way of Spiritual Transformation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2013), 28).

“17% of adults fall into the category of languishing or being mentally and emotionally unhealthy. Other studies reveal that women in particular are languishing and becoming more unhappy. They report feeling empty and lost, lacking purpose and fulfillment, struggling with transitions and changes. Stress, anxiety, and depression loom epidemically” (Catherine Hart Weber, *Flourish: Discover Vibrant Living* (Franklin, TN: Carpenter’s Son, 2013), 2).

“Bonding is one of the most basic and foundational ideas in life and the universe. It is a basic human need. God created us with a hunger for relationship—for relationship with him and with our fellow people. At our very core we are relational beings. Without a solid, bonded relationship, the human soul will become mired in psychological and emotional problems. The soul cannot prosper without being connected to others. No matter what characteristics we possess, or what accomplishments we amass, without solid emotional connectedness, without bonding to God and other humans, we... will suffer sickness of the soul” (Henry Cloud, *Changes That Heal: How to Understand Your Past to Ensure a Healthier Future* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1990), 47).

# EHS Personal Assessment



Please answer these questions as honestly as possible.  
Use the scoring method as indicated.

## PART A: General Formation and Discipleship

- |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. I feel confident of my adoption as God's son/daughter and rarely, if ever, question his acceptance of me.        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2. I love to worship God by myself as well as with others.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 3. I spend regular quality time in the Word of God and in prayer.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 4. I sense the unique ways God has gifted me individually and am actively using my spiritual gifts for his service. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5. I am a vital participant in a community with other believers.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 6. It is clear that my money, gifts, time, and abilities are completely at God's disposal and not my own.           | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 7. I consistently integrate my faith in the marketplace and the world.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

## PART B: Emotional Components of Discipleship

### Principle 1: Look beneath the Surface

- |  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| 1. It's easy for me to identify what I am feeling inside (Luke 19:41 – 44; John 11:33 – 35).   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2. I am willing to explore previously unknown or unacceptable parts of myself, allowing Christ to transform me more fully (Rom. 7:21 – 25; Col. 3:5 – 17).                   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 3. I enjoy being alone in quiet reflection with God and myself (Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12).   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 4. I can share freely about my emotions, sexuality, joy, and pain (Ps. 22; Prov. 5:18 – 19; Luke 10:21).   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5. I am able to experience and deal with anger in a way that leads to growth in others and myself (Eph. 4:25 – 32).  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 6. I am honest with myself (and a few significant others) about the feelings, beliefs, doubts, pains, and hurts beneath the surface of my life (Ps. 73; 88; Jer. 20:7 – 18). | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

### Principle 2: Break the Power of the Past

- |  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| 7. I resolve conflict in a clear, direct, and respectful way, not what I might have learned growing up in my family, such as painful putdowns, avoidance, escalating tensions, or going to a third party rather than to the person directly (Matt. 18:15 – 18).            | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 8. I am intentional at working through the impact of significant "earthquake" events that shaped my present, such as the death of a family member, an unexpected pregnancy, divorce, addiction, or major financial disaster (Gen. 50:20; Ps. 51).                          | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 9. I am able to thank God for all my past life experiences, seeing how he has used them to uniquely shape me into who I am (Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:28 – 30).   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 10. I can see how certain "generational sins" have been passed down to me through my family history, including character flaws, lies, secrets, ways of coping with pain, and unhealthy tendencies in relating to others (Ex. 20:5; cf. Gen. 20:2; 26:7; 27:19; 37:1 – 33). | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 11. I don't need approval from others to feel good about myself (Prov. 29:25; Gal. 1:10).  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 12. I take responsibility and ownership for my past life rather than blame others (John 5:5 – 7).  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

### Principle 3: Live in Brokenness and Vulnerability

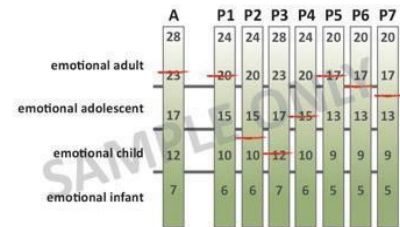
- |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13. I often admit when I'm wrong, readily asking forgiveness from others (Matt. 5:23 – 24).   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 14. I am able to speak freely about my weaknesses, failures, and mistakes (2 Cor. 12:7 – 12).   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 15. Others would easily describe me as approachable, gentle, open, and transparent (Gal. 5:22 – 23; 1 Cor. 13:1 – 6).                             | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 16. Those close to me would say that I am not easily offended or hurt (Matt. 5:39 – 42, 1 Cor. 13:5).   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 17. I am consistently open to hearing and applying constructive criticism and feedback that others might have for me (Prov. 10:17; 17:10; 25:12). | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 18. I am rarely judgmental or critical of others (Matt. 7:1 – 5).   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 19. Others would say that I am slow to speak, quick to listen, and good at seeing things from their perspective (James 1:19 – 20).                | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

## INVENTORY RESULTS:

For each group of questions on previous pages:

- Add your answers to get the total for that group. Write your totals on the section below.
- Next, plot your answers and connect the dots to create a graph below similar to this sample:
- Finally, see the next page for interpretations of your level of emotional health in each area.  
What patterns do you discern?



## ASSESSMENT TOTALS:

### Part A

General Formation and Discipleship

QUESTIONS

TOTAL

1 – 7      \_\_\_\_ /28

### Part B

Principle 1 – Look beneath the Surface

1 – 6      \_\_\_\_ /24

Principle 2 – Break the Power of the Past

7 – 12      \_\_\_\_ /24

Principle 3 – Live in Brokenness and Vulnerability

13 – 19      \_\_\_\_ /28

Principle 4 – Receive the Gift of Limits

20 – 25      \_\_\_\_ /24

Principle 5 – Embrace Grieving and Loss

26 – 30      \_\_\_\_ /20

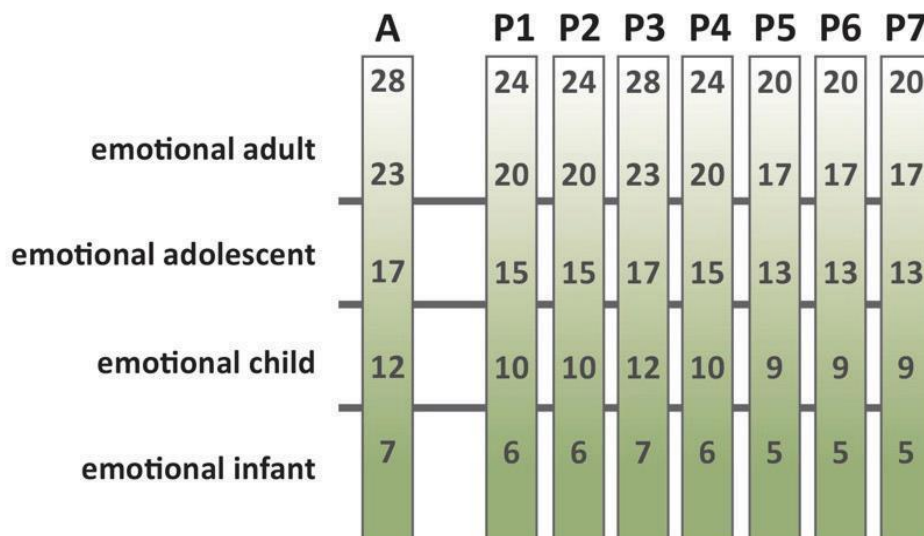
Principle 6 – Make Incarnation Your Model for Loving Well

31 – 35      \_\_\_\_ /20

Principle 7 – Slow Down to Lead with Integrity

36 – 40      \_\_\_\_ /20

## GRAPH:





## **Interpretation Guide: Levels of Emotional Maturity**

### **Emotional infant.**

I look for other people to take care of me emotionally and spiritually. I often have difficulty in describing and experiencing my feelings in healthy ways and rarely enter the emotional world of others. I am consistently driven by a need for instant gratification, often using others as objects to meet my needs. People sometimes perceive me as inconsiderate and insensitive. I am uncomfortable with silence or being alone. When trials, hardships, or difficulties come, I want to quit God and the Christian life. I sometimes experience God at church and when I am with other Christians, but rarely when I am at work or home.

### **Emotional child.**

When life is going my way, I am content. However, as soon as disappointment or stress enter the picture, I quickly unravel inside. I often take things personally, interpreting disagreements or criticism as a personal offense. When I don't get my way, I often complain, throw an emotional tantrum, withdraw, manipulate, drag my feet, become sarcastic, or take revenge. I often end up living off the spirituality of other people because I am so overloaded and distracted. My prayer life is primarily talking to God, telling him what to do and how to fix my problems. Prayer is a duty, not a delight.

### **Emotional adolescent.**

I don't like it when others question me. I often make quick judgments and interpretations of people's behavior. I withhold forgiveness to those who sin against me, avoiding or cutting them off when they do something to hurt me. I subconsciously keep records on the love I give out. I have trouble really listening to another person's pain, disappointments, or needs without becoming preoccupied with myself. I sometimes find myself too busy to spend adequate time nourishing my spiritual life. I attend church and serve others but enjoy few delights in Christ. My Christian life is still primarily about doing, not being with him. Prayer continues to be mostly me talking with little silence, solitude, or listening to God.

### **Emotional adult.**

I respect and love others without having to change them or becoming judgmental. I value people for who they are, not for what they can give me or how they behave. I take responsibility for my own thoughts, feelings, goals, and actions. I can state my own beliefs and values to those who disagree with me — without becoming adversarial. I am able to accurately self-assess my limits, strengths, and weaknesses. I am deeply convinced that I am absolutely loved by Christ and, as a result, do not look to others to tell me I'm okay. I am able to integrate doing for God and being with him (Mary and Martha). My Christian life has moved beyond simply serving Christ to loving him and enjoying communion with him.

*Permission is granted for any purchaser of this book to make copies of this inventory as long as it is not changed or sold for a profit, and this credit is included: Taken from Pete Scazzero with Warren Bird, *The Emotionally Healthy Church: Updated and Expanded Edition* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009). For more information and further resources, contact [www.emotionallyhealthy.org](http://www.emotionallyhealthy.org).*

