

How Strong is Your Church's Disciple-Making Culture?

These six questions will give you an instant read on the state of your church's ability to fulfill the Great Commission and Great Commandment.

Ed Underwood



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GROUP

Dear Church Leader,

At Recentered Group, my team and I work to equip church leadership teams to better fulfill the Great Commission (to make disciples) and the Great Commandment (love one another).

Consistently, we find that the single biggest barrier preventing churches from sustainably developing true disciples is this: their church culture.

Over the course of many years of working shoulder-to-shoulder with church leaders in the trenches of ministry, I've learned to quickly identify markers of a healthy church culture.

The six questions in this self assessment have been carefully crafted, specifically designed over years of working with churches all over North America. I've found these questions consistently reveal fundamental, underlying issues hindering a church's ability to successfully carry out the Great Commission and Great Commandment.

While some may be difficult, I ask that you carefully consider and respond to each question honestly. I'll help you understand your score, and point you in the right direction for next steps appropriate to your situation.

I'd also add that no set of questions can completely diagnose a problem in the same way that face to face interviews can. With that in mind, I'll lay out a very general diagnosis, and give several practical recommendations for improving your church's disciple-making culture.

Thank you for your life of sacrifice to Jesus and His Kingdom.

Sincerely,

Ed Underwood

How Strong is Your Church Discipleship Culture?

Self Assessment: Part 1

Outside of church or staff meetings, leaders rarely get together to enjoy one another or have fun.

- True (2 points)
- False (0 points)

It is rare for a leader to invite trusted friends to speak honestly into their life.

- True (2 points)
- False (0 points)

The church culture is oriented around maintaining excellence and upholding standards of behavior, and good performance is rewarded.

- True (2 points)
- False (0 points)

Add up the total points you scored in Part 1:

How Strong is Your Church Discipleship Culture?

Self Assessment: Part 2

Those in leadership behave like managers more than shepherds.

- True (5 points)
- False (0 points)

Church staff are afraid to raise issues or concerns with elders or key leaders. Individuals are often shut down when they try to express themselves.

- True (5 points)
- False (0 points)

Key leaders aren't trusting of each other and tend to keep their guards up.

- True (5 points)
- False (0 points)

Add up the total points you scored in Part 2:

Your final score is the sum of Parts 1 and 2.

Part 1 + Part 2 = _____

Understanding Your Score

Score Range: 0-4

Your church's culture seems healthy.

Based on your answers, your church has very few unhealthy patterns. You are the type of church or ministry we love working with! Your leaders and staff seem to have healthy relationships where true disciple-making can flourish. We'd love to meet and explore how to deepen and widen your church's impact in the world!

Your next steps:

1. [Get free resources to help sharpen your church culture, via our email list.](#)
2. [Click here to download discipleship growth tools for your leaders.](#)
3. [Connect with me to talk about ways to ensure discipleship is sustainable in your church.](#)

Score Range: 5-10

There is cause for concern.

Your disciple-making capacity is severely at risk. Your responses indicate an undercurrent of destructive patterns at work. If not dealt with soon, this will in all likelihood lead to relational and community break down. Your leaders need external support. It's tempting to disregard this counsel, and assume things will resolve themselves, given time. But please don't wait! God wants so much more for you and your church. We can help.

Your next steps:

1. [Click to download a free package of next steps.](#)
2. [Contact me for a free discussion about your self evaluation score.](#)
3. [Join the Recentered Group email list.](#)

Score Range: 11-21

Your culture is critically unhealthy.

I have serious concerns. Your responses seem to indicate deep trust issues within your leadership team. It is unlikely true disciple-making is taking place currently. If you don't feel the urgency, you've likely lived in this unhealthy culture so long, the red flags feel normal. Left unattended, the present issues will spiral and cause enormous damage.

Please fight the temptation of the “quick fix” of surface organizational or staffing changes. **Schedule a free emergency call or zoom meeting with Recentered Group now.**

Your next steps:

1. [Schedule a free emergency meeting now.](#)
2. [Download support resources for you and your team.](#)
3. [Join the Recentered Group email list.](#)



About Ed Underwood

Pastor, Author, and Shepherd of Shepherds

In 2015, Ed knew God was leading him and his wife Judy to transition out of leading the historic Church of the Open Door—a life-altering mission. God was asking Ed to leverage his leadership experiences as a fireman for the U.S. Forest Service, an Army officer, and four decades of leading churches to serve the Body of Christ at large.

What had been incubating in his heart as he equipped leaders, encouraged pastors, taught the Bible in seminaries, Bible schools, and conferences, was the need to **recenter the church to Jesus' two priorities: making disciples and loving one another.**

Recentered Group was born in 2016 with Ed as the Executive Officer and Lead Counselor. Since then, he has helped many pastors and church leadership teams to recenter their ministries. As God leads, he continues to work as a guest pastor, speaker, and author.

Recentered Workshops and Courses

Contact Ed to lead your team through workshops and courses that are practical, relevant, biblical - and transformational. Your leadership teams will engage with scripture and each other in new ways. Your church won't be the same!

Course: The Recentered Intensive

Available remote teaching, in-person teaching, and streaming video

Our flagship course, the Recentered Intensive is designed to bring cohesion and effectiveness to leadership teams. Whether your team is stuck in conflict, struggles to trust each other, or is simply in need of a reminder of the Scriptural principles that undergird healthy leadership, the Recentered Intensive will increase the trust, momentum, and disciple-making capacity of your church.

This foundational course is highly experiential and rooted in Scripture. You will move through discussions and exercises honed over decades of ministry. Your leaders will learn to establish high trust relationships with one another. This course is the foundation for future growth and vibrancy within your team.

Graduates are well-prepared for the trench warfare of reconciling relationships, resolving issues, and moving forward in unity.

Course: The Great Exchange

Available via remote and in-person teaching

The number one need in the church today isn't a program, isn't a theology, it isn't even a vision. **The most pressing need in the church today is for believers to learn to trust the love of God and others in community.**

This course will help each member of your leadership team to make 'the great exchange'. They'll exchange self-protection, control, and isolation for God's design: high-trust relationships that lead to incredible effectiveness.

Through three sections (Awaken, Exchange, Breakthrough), attendees will move from being stuck struggling with symptoms of unresolved issues, to encountering God's protective love in trusted relationships, to finally experiencing the freedom and safety and joy of ministry the way God intended.

Course: Recentering Elder/Pastor Relationships

Available via remote and in-person teaching

The weight of church leadership crushes many elder/pastor teams. The tension that can develop between elders and pastors often strains relationships and results in wounded souls and fractured congregations.

Drawing from more than two decades of counselling pastors and elders, 'Recentering Elder & Pastor Relationships' will inject hope for the future into you and your elder/pastor team.

You'll be equipped with practical tools, training, and resources designed to increase trust within the team, create patterns and systems of safety and personal care, and elevate you to new thresholds of love, trust, and capacity as you build and lead your faith community.

Strengthen and heal your pastor/elder teams.

[Contact Ed and the Recentered Group team to discuss any of these teachings for you and your church leadership teams.](#)