

## “How to Find a Good Church”

Looking for a good church? Join the club.  
Church-shopping can be a long and painful process.  
To shorten your search, call the pastor of the church before you visit and ask the following questions. This will save you a lot of Sundays.

### **1. What is man's biggest problem, sin or self esteem?**

Seeker sensitive and felt-needs churches focus on man's hurts and problems. The Bible says that man's biggest problem is sin.

### **2. What must a man do to inherit eternal life?**

Repent and trust is the Biblical answer. If the word “repent” is never used, say “thank you.”

### **3. How do you deliver the salvation message?**

Watch out for altar calls, asking for a decision and hand raising.  
Also, ask the pastor to describe specifically what he says.  
Does he encourage people to simply say a prayer?  
Does he tell people to ask Jesus into their hearts?  
(cf. [“Ten Reasons to Not Ask Jesus into Your Heart.”](#))

### **4. How hard is it to become a Christian?**

If the pastor says it is easy, he probably does not understand that dying to self is the hardest thing a person can do.

### **5. How often do you talk about sin, righteousness and judgment?**

Balance is key. This should not be the only emphasis, but it should be a regular emphasis.

### **6. How seeker sensitive is your church?**

It is o.k. for a church to be “seeker aware” but seeker sensitive means that they lean toward seekers and not the saved.

### **7. Who do you do church for, seekers or members?**

Both is not acceptable. Church should be done for members and pagans are welcome to watch.

### **8. Do you dumb down your sermons?**

If he says yes, he is probably not trying to wean his members from milk to meat. Answers like, “We try to make our sermons accessible to everyone” are sermons that are not meaty.

### **9. What is your mixture of topical vs. expository preaching?**

Topical preaching is fine, but if a pastor never or rarely preaches expositionally (verse by verse), then you are going to be learning from the pastor and not God's Word.

### **10. Do your sermons emphasize theology or are they just relevant?**

Everyone should say their sermons are relevant, what you are looking for is if they are afraid of theology.

### **11. Describe your youth programs.**

If fun and games is the major (and usually first) emphasis, you have a youth program that is trying to compete with MTV.

### **12. Describe your evangelism programs.**

Don't just accept, “We have an evangelism committee.” Dig. Are they serious about saving souls?

**13. What church growth model do you follow?**

Hopefully they don't have one. Churches should be reaching out to the lost, but churches that are plugged into new church growth models tend to follow man's modern ideas rather than the Bibles.

**14. How much do you give to missions and the hungry?**

Again, this reveals the heart of the church. While most churches give to missions, many never consider the poor.

**15. This is not a question.**

If you ask for the pastor and the receptionist says, "She will be right with you," hang up before you get transferred.

**16. Do you believe the Bible contains no errors or contradictions?**

**17. Do you believe in a literal 6 day creation?**

**18. Do you believe in a literal hell and eternal punishment?**

**19. When you distribute the Lord's Supper, do you emphasize the need to examine yourself?**

**20. Can a practicing homosexual inherit eternal life?**

**21. Does your church exercise church discipline? Do you have examples?  
For example: what if a married couple divorces for non-biblical reasons?**

**22. What would be your response to a gay couple attending your church?  
What would be your response if that couple requested membership?**

**23. Do SS teachers, nursery, and youth volunteers fill out an application where they have to answer questions about their core beliefs and salvation, or are all volunteers accepted because of a lack of volunteers?**