

“Am I a Potential Church Planter?”

Self-evaluation

Please evaluate yourself on the following profile common to successful church planters.

Thirteen Essential Qualities For A Church Planter:

Self-Rating Scale

	Low-----High
<p>1. Visioning Capacity: Being a person who projects into the future, able to develop a theme highlighting the vision and philosophy of ministry; ability to persuasively “sell” the vision to the people; establishing a clear church identity related to the theme and vision. Challenges are approached as opportunities rather than obstacles, with ability to cope effectively with non-visioning elements, with the overarching belief in God’s capacity to do great things.</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5</p>
<p>2. Intrinsically Motivated: Having a desire to do well with a commitment to excellence; persistence; willingness to start from nothing and work long and hard; self-starter with high energy level and physical stamina; having initiative and aggressiveness without negative connotations.</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5</p>
<p>3. Ownership of Ministry: Helping people to feel responsible for growth and success of church; gaining commitment of people to the vision; establishing a congregational identity; avoiding stereotyping of congregation by imposing unrealistic goals for which it cannot claim ownership.</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5</p>
<p>4. Relates to the Unchurched: Communicating in a style that is understood by the unchurched; understanding the “psychology” of the unchurched and breaking through the barriers erected by them. Ability to move and function in the “personal space” of the unchurched without fear; quickly getting to know them on a personal level. Able to handle crises faced by the unchurched.</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5</p>
<p>5. Spousal Cooperation: Having an explicit agreement regarding each partner’s respective role and involvement in ministry; agreeing upon and sharing the ministry vision, functioning as a team through individual and collective action; with explicit rules regarding the use of home as an office and having a strategy for dealing with strangers; deliberately planning and protecting private family life; evaluating the consequences of ministry demands upon the children and modeling wholesome family life before church and community.</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5</p>
<p>6. Effectively Builds Relationships: Displaying Godly love and compassion to people, getting to know people on a personal basis; responding with urgency to expressed needs and concerns of people; making others feel secure and comfortable in one’s presence, not responding judgmentally or prejudicially to new people, appreciating and accepting a variety of persons; spending quality time with present parishioners without overstepping them for new people.</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5</p>

<p>7. Committed to Church Growth: Believing in church growth as a theological principle and seeing the church project within the larger context of God's kingdom; committing to numerical growth within the context of spiritual and relational growth (more and better disciples); appreciating steady and consistent growth without preoccupation with the quick success factor; recognizing that non-growth is threatening and self-defeating; establishing the goal of becoming financially self-supporting within a specific time frame; not prematurely falling into a ministry of maintenance.</p>	<p>Low-----High 1 2 3 4 5</p>
<p>8. Responsive to Community: Understanding the culture, character and "pulse" of the community and adapting the philosophy of ministry to the community profile; identifying and assessing community needs; not confusing these identified needs with what the church wants to offer; responding to community needs on a priority basis such that resources are most efficiently used; determining successes and failures of other organized religious attempts to respond to community needs.</p>	<p>Low-----High 1 2 3 4 5</p>
<p>9. Utilizes Giftedness of Others: Discerning of spiritual gifts in others; equipping and releasing people to do ministry; matching giftedness with ministry needs and opportunities; not prematurely assigning ministry tasks before adequate equipping; delegating effectively in areas of personal limitation and to avoid personal overload; not placing unwarranted restrictions on other's spiritual giftedness.</p>	<p>Low-----High 1 2 3 4 5</p>
<p>10. Flexible and Adaptable: Coping effectively with ambiguity, constant and abrupt change; doing "whatever" is necessary "whenever" necessary; shifting priorities and emphasis during stages of church growth; adapting oneself and one's methods to the uniqueness of the church planting project.</p>	<p>Low-----High 1 2 3 4 5</p>
<p>11. Builds Group Cohesiveness: Developing a nucleus group(s) as a foundation and engaging others in meaningful church activity; quickly incorporating newcomers into a network of relationships, monitoring the morale of people; utilizing groups effectively; dealing with conflict assertively, constructively and tactfully.</p>	<p>Low-----High 1 2 3 4 5</p>
<p>12. Resilience: Experiencing setbacks without defeat; expecting the unexpected; rebounding from loss, disappointments and failure; riding the "ups and downs" (i.e. attendance).</p>	<p>Low-----High 1 2 3 4 5</p>
<p>13. Exercises Faith: Possessing a conviction regarding one's call to church planting ministry and believing in God's action; having expectation and hope; having a willingness to wait for answers to specific prayer requests.</p>	<p>Low-----High 1 2 3 4 5</p>

Adapted from *How To Select Church Planters: A Self-Study Manual* by Charles R. Riley (Fuller Evangelistic Association, 1988)