

# “Simple Church” Summary

(from Simple Church, by Thom Rainer & Eric Geiger with some additional Scripture added by Dr. Bill Miller)

## Simple Church

Def: A simple church is a congregation designed around a straightforward and strategic process that moves people through the stages of spiritual growth.

### 1. Clarity

Metaphor: The blue-print

Def: The ability of the process to be communicated and understood by people.

*10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1Corinthians 3:10-11)*

To get clarity you need:

1. Define
2. Illustrate
3. Measure
4. Discuss
5. Increase Understanding

## 2. Movement

Def: The sequential steps in the process that causes people to move to greater areas of commitment.

See Jesus:

The Calling (Luke 5-6)

The Building (Luke 7-8)

The Sending (Luke 9-10)

The Twelve (Luke 9:1-6)

The 72 (Luke 10:1-20)

- a) Strategic Programming
- b) Sequential Programming
- c) Intentional Movement
- d) Clear Next Step
- e) New Members Class

### 3. Alignment

Def: Alignment is the arrangement of all ministries and staff around the same simple process.

*1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. (Philippians 2:1-2)*

- a) Recruit on the Process
- b) Offer Accountability
- c) Implement the Same Process Everywhere
- d) Unite around the Process
- e) New Ministry Alignment

#### 4. Focus

Def: Focus is the commitment to abandon everything that falls outside of the simple ministry process.

*13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14)*

- a) Eliminate
- b) Limit Adding
- c) Reduce Special Events
- d) Easily Communicated
- e) Simple to Understand