

5 Qualities of Healthy Orthodox Churches

Why Some Orthodox Churches Grow & Others Don't
The Answer May Surprise You



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Healthy Parishes Combine The Great Commission With The Great Commandment

**The Great
Commission:** Go
therefore and make
disciples of all the
nations, baptizing
them in the name of
the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy
Spirit, teaching them
to observe all things
that I have
commanded you

**Spiritual &
Numerical
Growth**

**The Great
Commandment:** Love
the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul, and
with all your mind.
This is the first and
great commandment.
And the second is like
it: You shall love your
neighbor as yourself.

QUALITY

01

A Spirit Of Community

If your church membership is spread out geographically, then focus on becoming known as a joyful Christian church to non-members nearby.

Do your non-members nearby know you exist and welcome visitors?

QUALITY

02

A Spirit Of Abundance

If your church is low on membership/attendance, then expand your activities, such as daycare and discussion groups.

Do visitors find your church active and lively?

QUALITY

03

A Spirit Of Hospitality

If your visitors do not return, then focus on hospitality. Have the friendliest people as greeters, a lively coffee hour, and pamphlets on Orthodoxy. Does your parish make visitors excited to return?

QUALITY

04

A Spirit Of Stewardship
If your congregation does not tithe/volunteer, then focus on the reasons for stewardship. Encourage all members to be good stewards of God's money. Does your parish understand and value stewardship?

QUALITY

05

Prayer & Fasting
Mid-week gatherings
such as fasting meals and
prayer groups. Does your
parish practice mid-week
gatherings?

What Do The 5 Qualities Have In Common?

Putting Belief Into Action

How Can You Put Belief Into Action?

Read On For A Possible Solution

Becoming Truly Human™

A new ministry helping churches overcome the following obstacles

- a stagnant or shrinking parish
- apathy, animosity, and stress around finances
- lack of direction & focus in outreach
- finding adult education curriculum
- empowering qualified lay leaders

***Available to all jurisdictions.**

What Is Becoming Truly Human?

A weekly gathering of people exploring the deeper parts of life. A typical gathering consists of eating together, watching a film, and a group discussion. People from all religious (and non-religious) backgrounds are welcome.

How Can Becoming Truly Human Help?

- A friendly way to share the faith with others.
- A great curriculum for adult education classes.
- A ministry for lay leaders, under the direction of the priest
- An effective tool for increasing stewardship.
- A powerful resource for helping a parish move towards the 5 qualities of healthy Orthodox churches.

What Is The Next Step?

1. WEBSITE

Click **HERE** for more information at the website.

2. WATCH

Click **HERE** to watch the first four minutes of the film used in the ministry.

3. RECRUIT

Click **HERE** for help finding volunteers. This link will open/download a new pdf.

4. MATERIALS

Contact us for materials and training: bth@antiochian.org or 615-971-0000.

Where does this info come from?

39

**INTERVIEWS ON
ORTHODOX
EVANGELISM**

55

**PARISH
VISITS**

76

**PARISHES IN
EVANGELISM
SURVEY**

The information in this eBook was gathered by Adam Lowell Roberts, full-time administrator for the Becoming Truly Human ministry of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

Since joining the Archdiocese full-time in 2014, Adam has completed 39 interviews for Ancient Faith Radio on Orthodox Evangelism. Adam has also visited 55 individual parishes, and most of those parishes were visited more than once. In 2015 Adam published a book on Orthodox evangelism titled *100 Natural Ways To Grow A Church*. Since December of 2015 Adam has been helping with a study of 76 parishes on evangelism led by Alexei Krindatch for the Assembly of Bishops.