

Change Your Questions, Change Your Church

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Val Hastings, MCC

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COACHING 4 CLERGY

Empowering Today's Spiritual Leaders



Change Your Questions, Change Your Church

On my recent travels to deliver a coach training program, I heard a statement on the radio that stopped me cold. History changed when a single question changed; when we stopped asking, "How do we get to the water?" and started asking, "How do we get the water to us?"

What a radical shift for us as human beings!

My thoughts went immediately to how this relates to us in ministry. How would our churches change if we were to change our questions there?

For example, here are some of the questions you might be asking now:

1. How do get "them" to come to us?
2. How much longer can we afford a full-time pastor?
3. How do we get people to fund our budget?

Boards and leaders literally spend hours on Question #1, but I'm thinking that if we changed that question, we could produce entirely different outcomes. What if we asked, "How can we go to them?" Or we could ask, "How can we have a positive impact on our community-at-large?"

Question #2 suggests scarcity thinking—focusing on what's lacking instead of what's abundant. What if we ask, "What more can we do with the resources we have?" What if we look at, "How can we develop the people we have so they can make a bigger contribution and everyone wins?"

In Question #3, it sounds like we're trying to cajole or even manipulate people into doing something they don't really want to do. What if we ask, "What are people most excited about, and how

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can we give them the opportunity to support us while fulfilling their own interests and passions?" People are happy to invest time, energy and resources when it is also satisfying to them.

I invite you to listen for the questions that you and your church are asking. Are they limiting, like our examples above, or are they powerful. And what's the difference?

Powerful questions are usually open-ended, leaving room for contemplation and reflection, instead of being limited to yes or no or specific choices.

Limiting questions might not be questions at all, only thinly masking a statement of blame, obligation of guilt, such as asking someone to explain why they did something the way they did.

Powerful questions are open to possibilities beyond the reality that's in front of us today, stretching us into the territory of our visions to ask, "What is God's invitation for us in this situation today?"



Have you downloaded the new FREE e-book, [The E3-Church: Empowered, Effective and Entrepreneurial Leadership That Will Keep Your Church Alive](#)? Each chapter contains 10 powerful questions that are guaranteed to shift your mind.

Here are just a few samples:

- How could you make better use of the strengths of your church?
- What kind of leader would you be if you were driven by passion?
- What dream have you long since given up on?
- Which of your roles could someone else be doing, and probably better than you?
- What's the worst thing that could happen if you did less?

"Val's e-book is more than a book. It has the potential to be a continual life-changing tool. As I contemplate the 'questions for reflection,' I can see clearly where I have made mistakes and where I can improve. I now have ideas and steps to move forward in much more positive directions. I want to come back to these questions again and again to make sure I am staying on track and always moving forward." – Shari Baer, Pastor and Coach

You can download the e-book for free at www.e3churchleadership.com.

