

CHURCH LIFE CURVE



Growth

*Flexibility
Teamwork
Outward Focus
Solution Oriented
Ends Oriented
Concerned for Growth
Clarified Purpose
Function = Forms*

Vipm



Birth
*Courtship
High Tolerance
Hope
Enthusiasm
Activity
Commitment
Vision*

Maturation

*Outside-In Focus
Pioneers
Risks
Creative Plans
Refine Structures
Can Do
Experiment*

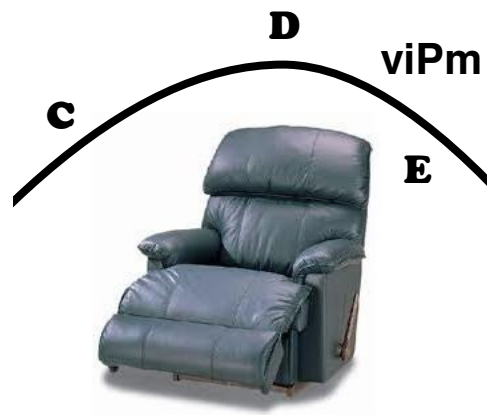
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One of the most useful tools in understanding the natural life of a church, a ministry within a church, a Bible college, a product, or even a relationship is the *Ministry Life Curve*.

The secret to consistent growth is to start a new S curve before the first one ends.

The best place to start the next curve is near Point C when there is the time, energy, and resources to get the new curve through it's initial



Saturation

*Inside-Out Focus
Settlers
Guarantees
Allocative Plans
Guard Structures
Might Do
Refinement*

F

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stages before the curve plateaus and declines. Starting the curve at Point E (or lower) can be done, but it will take more effort, creativity and time.

Where is our organization on the curve?

Where are you personally on the S curve of your ministry, career, or life?

Leadership

Focus
Vision
Involvement
Program
Management

Where is your church on this curve?

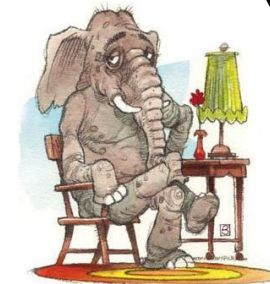


Decline

*Rigidity
Lone Rangers
Inward Focus
Problem Oriented
Means Oriented
Concerned for Survival
Cloudy Purpose
Form = Function*

G

H



Death

*Divorce
Low Tolerance
No Hope
Boredom
Passivity
Containment
Disillusion*

Adapted from Robert Humphrey, © LEAD Programs, and Jim Engle, Clouded Future