

## **Taking a Home Audit**

Every congregation who loves Christ and His Word has characteristics of a family. How could it be otherwise? However, when we test our church life against some of the evidences we should see in God's household, we may be found wanting. My goal in this book has been to draw attention to those "family values" we ought to display in our churches. I believe that sometimes we try too hard to grow unnaturally fast, to target only a certain demographic, or that our failure to deal with relationship messes stymies the family life God intends for us.

**Perhaps church leaders should do a home audit to evaluate the quality of God's household under our care. These questions might help your leadership:**

- To what degree have we as leaders given thought to the biblical teaching on the church as God's household? How could we improve our understanding?
- What efforts do we make as leaders to exercise our shepherding and parental roles among our congregation?
- In what ways does our congregation demonstrate strong family traits?
- In what ways does our congregation need to improve as a family?

- What percentage of our congregation sees our church family as a vital aspect of their own spiritual life, and that of their own family?
- Do we communicate to new members and new leaders that we consider it important and biblical to see our church as home?
- Is our church hospitable? Are our leaders hospitable?

**Score your church, 1-10, on these areas:**

- \_\_\_ Our people love one another, even through stresses and conflict.
- \_\_\_ We experience and express the rest Jesus gives our souls through worship, prayer, and attention to the Word of God.
- \_\_\_ We welcome people well, which has been affirmed to us by visitors.
- \_\_\_ New people might well say, “God is really among you,” and “these people love one another and me.”
- \_\_\_ We make a priority of giving personal attention to our brothers and sisters. We learn names, listen well, and take time.
- \_\_\_ We invest in caring for the needs of people in our church family.
- \_\_\_ Rather than being ingrown, our family environment stirs our desire to share our faith.