

FIGHT FOR
SIMPLICITY
AS YOUR CHURCH GROWS



GROWTH IS EXCITING.

More people show up, which means more people are reached.

Having more people involved means complexity creeps in. No one wants this to happen; it's a byproduct of growth.

Companies see it all the time. If a startup sees rapid growth in a few years, they quickly discover how bloated and cumbersome things become. Why? Because most of the internal attention was devoted to growing the company.



AND LITTLE TIME WAS GIVEN TO SIMPLICITY.

When complexity reigns, confusion persists. The greater the confusion, the less likely people are to take action. Giving stalls, attendance slows, opportunities hit a standstill.

This isn't intentional; there's only so much time and mental capacity for ministry leaders. The demands on your calendar are immense. Without taking action, simplicity becomes nothing more than

wishful thinking, an aspiration your church will hit "one day."

Thankfully, though, fighting for simplicity can move off the "one day" list and onto the "now" list. Taking action solves other problems, aligns your team, and positions your church for future growth.



DIAGNOSE THE SYMPTOMS

Some leaders know the root issue is complexity. Others feel the symptoms but can't quite diagnose the issue.

Either way, know the symptoms of complexity and you're better prepared to lead through it.

SIMPLICITY CREATES FEWER DISTRACTIONS.

Complexity is overwhelming. Your congregation doesn't know what to do next. Your staff can't keep up with everything. Your community is confused. Replace complexity with simplicity and you create more space for people to hear the Bible taught.

SIMPLICITY CREATES MORE OPPORTUNITIES.

Simplicity is the result of discipline and focus. The more you fight for simplicity, the more focused your church becomes. As a result, you discover new opportunities to reach people.

SIMPLICITY CREATES FUTURE GROWTH.

Companies know the larger they get, the simpler they must be. Complexity is easy. Simplicity requires discipline, focus, and a willingness to cut out things outside the mission. This is how you set the stage for future growth.



HOW TO GET IT WRONG

Most leaders walked down this path in the past. A book or conference session inspires them to act. Without a roadmap, though, they take the wrong paths. Instead of simplicity, they're left with uncertainty.

KEEP DOING THINGS THE WAY THEY'VE BEEN DONE.

Timeless principles are important. But practices should change, especially as your church grows. Most churches don't want to keep doing things the same way. The pace of ministry combined with the challenges of growth put change on the backburner.

FAIL TO LOOK AT THE CALENDAR HOLISTICALLY.

Consider how much time and money the current schedule requires of families. It's easy to forget what's being asked of families and members. They aren't expecting to come to everything. Church isn't connected to their job, so they see things differently.

IGNORE THINGS OF HIGH RETURN.

Focusing efforts leads to greater impact. There are limited resources. Time, money, attention, people, you name it. Try to keep everything and resources get spread thin.



WHAT DO YOU DO NOW?

Simplicity is an ongoing responsibility. And while it may seem like a daunting task, there are steps you can take today.

LOOK AT THE WHOLE CALENDAR.

Three departments are the only ones aware of how complicated a church is:

- Communications (get people there)
- Finance (pay for people there)
- Facilities (have a place for people to sit)

Everyone else works so much in their own world they forget what everyone else does. This is a poor way to plan, especially as your church grows.

ACTION

Put everything in one place, preferably printed on the wall. Give the staff a scope of what all goes on. Do it from the perspective of church members, like families, empty nesters, etc.

CHECK WITH YOUR CHMS COMPANY FOR NEW WAYS TO MANAGE THINGS MORE EASILY.

Technology should be a tool to help your church. As you grow, new features in your database tools may be able to help alleviate complexity. Since these tools would be new to you, reach out to the experts. A tiny time investment often creates huge returns.

ACTION

Schedule time with your ChMS company. Ask how larger, growing churches use the tool to streamline operations and simplify the work.

DO A REGULAR REVIEW OF EVERYTHING.

Personal productivity often involves a regular review of projects, commitments, goals, and more. Looking at these lists brings out new ideas and insights. Without a regular review, things get lost. The same is true for your church. Without a regular review of the calendar and plan, things get overlooked.

ACTION

Dedicate 30 minutes once a month in your weekly staff meeting to review the previous month and preview the upcoming months. Decide what can be simplified, shifted, or changed next time. Do a quarterly review for 2-3 hours and ask hard questions about what's on deck.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN

Simplicity is a never ending responsibility, especially for growing churches. It must stay as a top priority, though. When it does, your church is ready to reach more people.

Large churches mean greater impact. They also mean more

challenges, especially for growing churches. Each new phase of growth introduces new issues to solve. This guide, along with the other guides in the series, help you navigate the potential roadblocks with clarity and confidence. Avoid the gaps and continue leading a stronger church.

Choosing the Right Ministry Partner

The know-how you need from experts you trust.

ACS Technologies is the original pioneer of Church Management Software (ChMS). We are firmly dedicated to serving local churches all over North America by providing the best-in-class ministry software and service solutions that help you fulfill Christ's mission for your Church.

Tools and support to strengthen churches.

We build great software, but we don't stop there. We have a "service-first" approach that truly sets us apart. With hundreds of dedicated support and consulting personnel, your staff can reach our team 24/7. We're in your corner to help you with the ministry challenges you face every day.

Ideas and solutions powered by integrity.

Integrity is real for us, and it means consistently being faithful stewards by doing the right thing for church success. We have earned the trust of pastors, church staff, congregants, our employees, and colleagues for over 40 years.

A plan to meet your needs and move your ministry.

We're not just interested in satisfied customers. We see ourselves as your real ministry partner and will work with you to make disciples that will last for an eternity. We're excited to talk about your goals, create a plan together, and set you up with the software, service, and resources you need.

We believe in YOU!

ACS Technologies believes in the local church. Over 75% of our team has experience serving in their local churches. We know firsthand that serving the Church means serving people, and we take seriously our commitment to helping ministries like yours achieve their God-given mandate - to make disciples in their communities, states, and across the world.

Let's Talk

We know the challenges of switching or implementing new technology and how that can be intimidating. But we also know the unbelievable changes that have happened within churches that have partnered with us for their ministry needs. Let's connect and see how we can assist you in the greatest thing you do - grow God's Kingdom.

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