

## Operation Repent

OPERATION REPENT is a project to promote reformation in the Christian church. Its aims are:

1. To promote a biblical view of the Christian faith;
2. To promote a biblical model of the church; and
3. To encourage and enable churches to reflect a greater understanding of the biblical gospel, unadulterated from the traditions of the Christian church and the expectations of the community.

It was created in response to the apparent gulf between the church of the New Testament and the church of today, and the inability of many people to distinguish it from any not-for-profit welfare organisation.

The first phase has been completed: two online checklists that can be used to help assess the health of any church or Christian organisation:

1. How Biblical is my Church?
2. How Welcoming is my Church?

Please feel free to use them to assess the health of your church or organisation.

But be warned: *operationrepent.com.au* tackles the questions below by providing a biblical or practical response to each. It includes answers that many will find challenging to their beliefs, traditions, and practices.

### How Biblical Is My Church?

1. Does my church teach that God is the creator and sustainer of all things?
2. Does my church teach that Jesus Christ is the Son of God: that he was born, died, resurrected from the grave, and will come again to judge the living and the dead?
3. Does my church teach about God, the Holy Spirit?
4. Does my church teach that all mankind has sinned, and fallen short of the expectations of God?
5. Does my church teach that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ was necessary for our salvation?
6. Does my church teach that we are saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and not by our own works?
7. Does my church teach that the Holy Spirit is the giver of gifts to every believer?
8. Does my church teach about the universal nature of God's church?
9. Does my church engage in evangelism?
10. Does my church support the wider mission to the world?
11. Does my church accept the biblical view of marriage—in terms of the universal gift of marriage to all mankind?
12. Does my church teach the biblical view of acceptable and prohibited sexual relationships?
13. Does my church advocate the baptism of believers only?
14. Does my church prioritise biblical beliefs over local traditions and customs?

15. Does my church have a paid minister? If so, does it still practice the ministry of all believers?
16. Does my church celebrate Holy Communion within the context of a shared meal?
17. Are all decisions in my church made through prayer?
18. Does my church own any buildings? If so, are they consecrated and used only for sacred purposes?
19. Do the church buildings meet the current needs of the congregation?
20. Is my church totally funded by its members?
21. Does my church engage in raffles, seek donations outside the church, or apply for government funding?
22. Do the services in my church include every aspect of prayer: e.g. confession, adoration, intercessions, and thanksgiving?
23. Is the Bible read in my church?
24. Is the Gospel preached in my church?
25. Does my church encourage active participation in worship services?
26. Does my church care for its ministers?
27. Does my church engage in pastoral care to its members?
28. Does my church have Bible studies and/or small groups?
29. Does my church engage in ministry to the aged?
30. Does my church engage in ministry to the young?
31. Is my church active in providing welfare to the greater community?
32. Is my church involved in the education system?
33. How involved is my church with the local community?
34. Does my church employ people from outside of the church (paid or otherwise)?

### **How Welcoming Is My Church?**

1. Is there a signboard outside my church advertising the times of services and providing contact details? And if there is, is it up to date?
2. Does my church have a website detailing who they are, what they stand for, when they meet, and contact details?
3. Are the service times at my church easy to follow?
4. Are there people at my church who welcome people? If so, are they there at least twenty minutes before the start of any service?
5. Are people given a pile of books (hymn book, prayer book, etc.) at the door? If so, what processes does my church have to help those who may be unfamiliar with the services?
6. Are visitors given a leaflet (or the like) detailing what my church stands for, with its activities and contact details?
7. Are seats left at the back of the church where visitors can sit, if they so wish?
8. Do the members of my church talk to one another before and after services?
9. At the conclusion of the service, is there someone at the door to farewell both regulars and visitors, and to see if they have any needs?
10. What processes does my church have to follow up visitors and deal with any other needs?

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OPERATION REPENT is intended to be a vehicle of change. The hope is that it will become interactive, and support and encourage biblical reform in the church.

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