

1. Committed to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)

Leading people to Christ, not just talking about it.

Are there any new Christians, young adults?

Making multiplying disciples, not just converts.

Strong missions emphasis and involvement. Systematic giving, praying, going.

Multi-Generational, to avoid the Rehoboam syndrome (1 Kings 12)

Majors on the Majors, Minors on the Minors.

(Not consumed with #s, \$, Buildings, Music, Programs,
Performances, Media Image, Mere Social Action)

2. Agree theologically (Amos 3:3)

Bible is final authority for teachings, and practices.

At least on major issues, if not details, unless the details are essential for them.

(Be ware of King James Version only groups, End Times fanatics,
“Manifestations of the Spirit” groups, etc.)

Sit down with the Pastor and/or Elders:

Ask specific questions: Who is God, Jesus? Virgin birth?

Miracles? Heaven? Hell? How is a person saved? Bible?

Don't think, "I like everything else, so I can put up with wrong theology of the Pastor,
the church or it's denomination."

Don't think, "Maybe their theology will get better."

Ask yourself, "Do I want them teaching this to my children?"

3. Congregational Polity (Acts 6:1-7)

If you join, can you can be involved in decision making?

Can you find out what money comes in and goes out? (Do members have a say in its finances.)

Led by God's Spirit?

Pastor not a dictator. Elders not controlling.

Not controlled by a denominational body which may move away from Scripture!

Systematically Cooperates with other churches.

Doesn't think it is the only true church.

4. A Place Where You Can Grow (I Peter 2:2)

Where you can ask questions, learn, be challenged, trained in ministry skills and service.

Large groups have their place, but so do small groups and one-on-one. (2 Tim 2:2)

Is there a more mature believer there who can and will disciple you? (Titus 2:1-7)

5. A place you are positive toward. (John 1:46)

Good enough to bring friends, parents, children, and lost people (to some forum).

Where you feel comfortable giving your money, tithe.

Where you can invest your life, and use your gifts. (You must be patient for this to develop.)

Where God leads you!

If there isn't a church like this around you, join others with this vision to build one.