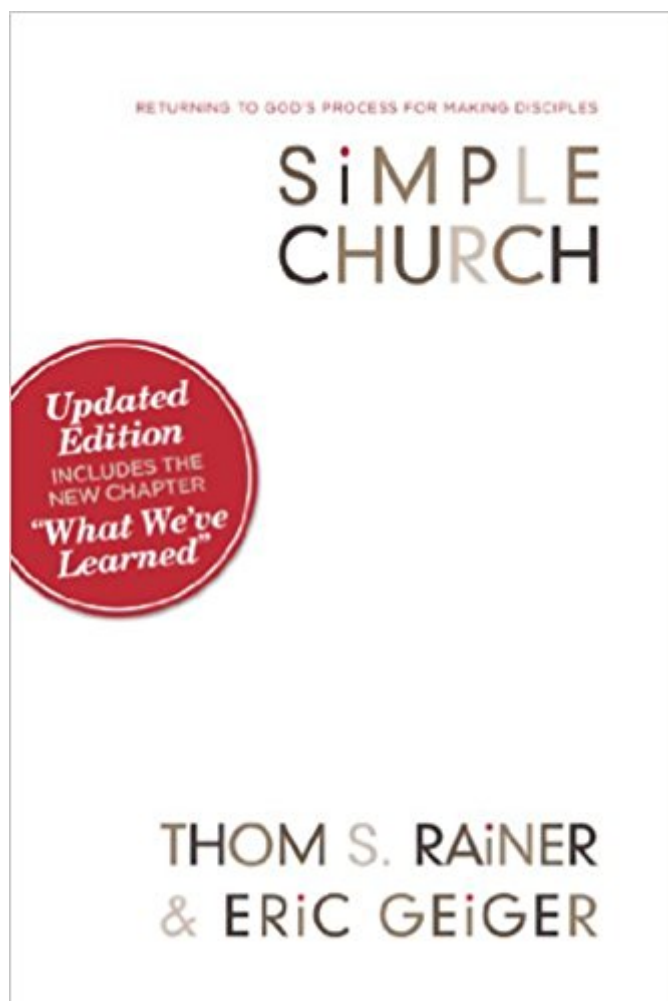


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# Simple Church: Returning To God's Process For Making Disciples



## Synopsis

The simple revolution is here. From the design of Apple products to Google's uncluttered homepage, simple ideas are changing the world. Now in paperback, multi-awarded #1 national bestseller *Simple Church* guides Christians back to the simple gospel-sharing methods of Jesus. No bells or whistles required. With insights based on case studies of 400 American churches, Thom Rainer and Eric Geiger prove the disciple-making process is often too complex. Simple churches thrive by taking four ideas to heart: Clarity. Movement. Alignment. Focus. *Simple Church* examines each idea, clearly showing why it is time to simplify. This updated trade paper edition includes a new chapter with further insights the authors have gained through hundreds of conversations with church leaders since this landmark book's original release.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Thom S. Rainer is president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources, one of the largest Christian resource companies in the world. He is also a best-selling author and leading expert in the field of church research. Rainer and his wife, Nellie Jo, have three grown sons and three grandchildren and live in Nashville, Tennessee. Eric Geiger serves as one of the Vice Presidents at LifeWay Christian Resources, leading the Resources Division. Eric received his doctorate in leadership and church ministry from Southern Seminary. Eric has authored or co-authored several books including *Creature of the Word* and the best selling church leadership book, *Simple Church*. Eric is married to Kaye, and they have two daughters:

Eden and Evie. During his free time, Eric enjoys dating his wife, playing with his daughters, and shooting basketball.

Based on a study of 88 churches, this production discusses the concept of simplicity as it relates to spirituality. The authors compare church attendance to inviting guests into one's home. In a melodious baritone, Grover Gardner delivers their description of how guests arrive in the entryway, which is like the church foyer. They then liken guests in the living room to church attendees sitting in pews for a sermon. When the house guests become friends, they say, they're invited into the kitchen, and they liken that to attendees joining the church and becoming involved with the ministry. Gardner narrates with full attention to details as he interprets the authors' urging that churches return to simple methods of sharing the gospel. G.D.W. Â© AudioFile 2008, Portland, Maine-- Copyright Â© AudioFile, Portland, Maine --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

This is another great book by Thom Rainer! I am a new comer, functioning as Associate Pastor, at a church that fits the description of both the Simple Church and of a "Break-Out Church" (see Rainer's book on the subject). The senior pastor has been at the church for over 20 years and when I arrived, I was excited to share with him that I believed the church fit the description of a break-out church. Then I read Simple Church (actually listened to it on Audible) and told the pastor about how the church fit the description. The pastor said that he had taken the congregation through that book and that they really enjoyed it. The insights and principles shared in this book work! I see it everyday at Mt. Calvary!

This is a really good book, it's just twice as long as it needs to be. The information and examples are outstanding, but then it starts to repeat itself and then it starts to repeat itself and then it starts to repeat itself. See how annoying that can be? Save yourself time and read the first few chapters and then the last one - you'll get it and be glad you did.

if you need this kind of book, this is a great book... if you're looking for entertainment, this is not the book for you... its research results that are applicable to certain situations. But if your church is looking for help in getting organized to reach people, this can be an effective tool. I liked it and will keep it around to refer to often. The information shared in this book could certainly be used in everyday life not just in a church setting.

A practical and timely reminder to those in church leadership that we must remain focused on the calling we have been given as the Body of Christ. It is very easy to become distracted and diluted in our ministry. These authors remind us of the importance of remaining clear, active, aligned and focused. It's as Paul instructed Timothy: "Command and teach these things. ...Give your attention to public reading, exhortation, and teaching. ...Practice these things; be committed to them, so that your progress may be evident to all. Pay close attention to your life and your teaching; persevere in these things..." (1 Timothy 4:11,13,15,16)

Organizations are constantly pulled to become more complex. Churches normally grow in complexity over time as they add programs at a faster rate than they drop them. Ranier and Geiger's research behind "Simple Church" shows that churches which resist the pull to become complex are usually healthier and grow faster than those that become complex. The authors explain that the genius of a simple church is to clarify and combine its purpose and process of making disciples. For example, a church that is centered around loving God, loving people, and serving the world is one that leads its people along a process of making disciples that has programs built around: loving God (beginning with large group worship), loving people (participating in a small group for community) and serving the world (joining a ministry team). A simple church will have a clear and simple expectation for which events or meetings that members should attend each week. In order to become a simple church the authors suggest examining four elements: clarity, movement, alignment, and focus. A church should clearly identify the stages of spiritual growth (clarity) and move people along the process of discipleship (movement), make sure each ministry contributes to this process (alignment) or is eliminated (focus). I recommend reading "Simple Church" as a reminder to church leadership to resist the pull toward organizational complexity and align the church's ministry structure around the process of making disciples.

This book is well written and very informative. I enjoyed reading it very much. It taught many things I did not know.

First things first. When a value becomes "institutionalized" something of the original value is often lost.

This book takes a sobering and much needed look into how we function as a church. The book context reveals a great deal beyond the page by page text. Simple church is an excellent review

process for any pastor to read and evaluate in perspective of his current service. I highly recommend it!

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