

3 Ways to Reimagine Your Church's Dashboard

When you think of Tesla, what's the first thing that comes to your mind?

For most people, it's electric cars, but what if I were to tell you that this was not going to be their greatest legacy? Yes, they did vastly expand the driving range of an electric vehicle from 73 miles (117 km) to 200 miles (320 km) on a single charge. Yes, they did reimagine the electric car and the way that it is powered. Yes, they did open up the black box on their technology patents so that other car manufacturers can benefit from and improve on their technology. However, since electric vehicles only account for one percent of the market, unless more people begin to buy electric vehicles, Tesla's impact will be small, if not negligible. In addition, with the recent report that revealed Tesla loses more than \$4000 on every Model S car that they sell, the future is looking dim for them.

Although Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla, may want his company to be remembered for electric vehicle technology, he might actually be inadvertently writing his legacy elsewhere. Even more than their advancement in battery technology, **I believe that the greatest impact that Tesla will make in the automobile industry is from their dashboards.** After all, while only one percent of customers might buy an electric car, one hundred percent of vehicles have dashboards. Have you ever seen the dashboard on a Tesla? It feels like a thing of the future. Not only have they gotten rid of all the manual dials and gauges and made them digital, but they have also **reimagined** what a dashboard could be. I wouldn't be surprised if other car manufacturers quickly follow suit. **Here are three ways that Tesla has reimagined the dashboard.**

1. From static to dynamic. Most cars still have manual gauges to change the temperature, measure the RPM, or change the radio station. In the Tesla dashboard, everything is digital and dynamic.

2. From single-function to multi-function. If you look at the dashboard in a common vehicle, you'll have single-function gauges. In the Tesla, you have the ability to display anything you would like on your dashboard. For example, you could measure the energy consumption on your car, while adjusting your car's height suspension, and follow your GPS all at the same time. Your dashboards are digital screens.

3. From incremental to exponential advancement. Most of the advancements in cars are incremental. For example, instead of a manual temperature dial, you could have a digital gauge that acts like a thermostat. For Tesla, they broadened their field of thinking, combined disparate thoughts and concepts, and completely redesigned their dashboard, which has resulted in exponential advancement. Other companies are quickly following suit.

What if we took the ways that Tesla reimagined the dashboard and applied it to our church's dashboard? Here are a few thoughts on reimagining your church's dashboard.

Reimagining Your Church's Dashboard:

1. From static to dynamic.

There was a day where we would evaluate the effectiveness of our church solely based on three measures: attendance, giving, and groups. Now there is nothing wrong with those measures, the only issue is that they're measuring past events—they're lag measures. They're also static because you can't affect them, you can only read them. What would it look like, instead, if we were to move from evaluating static measures to dynamic measures in our church? **In other words, what would it look like if we began thinking in terms of lead measures for our church?** To understand the difference between lag and lead measures, think about weight loss.

A lag measure is when you weigh yourself on a scale. A lead measure is when you track how many calories you've eaten in a day. Lag measures are responsive and static. Lead measures are active and dynamic. Basically, lead measures impact lag measures; they drive the results of lag measures. **So what would it look like if we began measuring the things that dynamically affected attendance, giving, and groups?** What if we began measuring the lead measures that were going to drive our lag measures?

- For attendance, what if we began measuring things like, the **number of touch points** we have with our congregations during the week? Or how relevant our services are to the lives of our church members? Or how loud the congregations sing during worship?
- For giving, what if we began measuring things like, **how often we connect the offering time to the vision of our church?** Or whether or not people see the relationship between giving and life change? Or what about the trust factor? Do people in your church see you as being transparent and trustworthy?
- For groups, what if we began measuring things like, **the number of life stories we received?** Or the number of missional opportunities engaged?

The fact is, the more time we spend thinking through and crafting the *right* dynamic lead measures, the more our static lag measures will be affected—and hopefully improve.

2. From single-function to multi-function.

Instead of just measuring single components, like the number of small groups, or weekly attendance, what if we began cross analyzing how things affected one another? In other words, **what if we developed new gauges that measured more than one thing?** Or how things affected one another?

For example, instead of measuring just the number of small groups, what if we measured the number of small groups cross analyzed with the frequency that they meet, the location of the city that they're in, and the number of times they engage in missional activity? By analyzing that situation, you might actually discover a new location for a potential church plant or campus of your church! That's the beauty of multi-function dashboards. They're more strategic.

3. From incremental to exponential advancement.

The reason Tesla was able to reimagine the dashboard was because they were looking elsewhere—they were broadening their field of thinking. If all they did was strive to copy what other car manufacturers were doing, then they would not have been able to develop such a different type of dashboard. In the same way, **if you want to move from incremental to exponential advancement in your leadership, then make sure that you are reading books outside of the ministry world.** For example, if you're a church planter, read books on entrepreneurship. If you're regularly preaching, study the best TED talks. If you're a campus pastor, study franchising. If you're a children's pastor, then study adolescent development.

What do you think would happen if you reimaged your church's dashboard? What would it look like if you began measuring different things? And measured them in a different manner? Just as Tesla reimaged the car's dashboard, I hope this post will inspire you to reimagine your church's dashboard and the metrics that you use to measure success.

Check out more blog posts like this and other helpful pastor and church planter resources at NewChurches.com.

> [Read more by Daniel](#).

Would you like to know more about developing dashboards for your church? [Connect with an Auxano Navigator and start a conversation with our team](#).