

## Leadership and Church Size Dynamics: How Strategy Changes with Growth

**A church's functional style, its strengths and weaknesses, and the roles of its lay and staff leaders will change dramatically as its size changes.**

One of the most common reasons for pastoral leadership mistakes is blindness to the significance of church size. **Size has an enormous impact on how a church functions.**

There is a “**size culture**” that profoundly affects how decisions are made, how relationships flow, how effectiveness is evaluated, and what ministers, staff, and lay leaders do. We tend to think of the chief differences between churches mainly in denominational or theological terms, but that underestimates the impact of size on how a church operates. The difference between how churches of 100 and 1,000 function may be much greater than the difference between a Presbyterian and a Baptist church of the same size. The staff person who goes from a church of 400 to a church of 2,000 is in many ways making a far greater change than if he or she moved from one denomination to another.

**A large church is not simply a bigger version of a small church.** The difference in communication, community formation, and decision-making processes are so great that the leadership skills required in each are of almost completely different orders. **There is no "best size" for a church.** Each size presents great difficulties and also many opportunities for ministry that churches of other sizes cannot undertake (at last not as well). Only together can churches of all sizes be all that Christ wants the church to be.

Dr. Timothy Keller, founder and senior pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, has developed several principles of size dynamics that your church leadership team will find invaluable.

>> [Download this powerful and insightful teaching from Dr. Keller here.](#)



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