

Tim Keller Answers the Question "Why Plant Churches"?

The vigorous, continual planting of new congregations is the single most crucial strategy for (1) the numerical growth of the body of Christ in a city and (2) the continual corporate renewal and revival of the existing churches in a city.

Nothing else—not crusades, outreach programs, parachurch ministries, growing mega-churches, congregational consulting, nor church renewal processes—will have the consistent impact of dynamic, extensive church planting. This is an eyebrow-raising statement, but to those who have done any study at all, it is not even controversial.

The normal response to discussions about church planting is something like this.

A. "We already have plenty of churches that have lots and lots of room for all the new people who have come to the area. Let's get them filled before we start building any new ones."

B. "Every church in this community used to be more full than it is now. The churchgoing public is a shrinking pie. A new church here will just take people from churches that are already hurting and will weaken everyone."

C. "Help the churches that are struggling first. A new church doesn't help the existing ones that are just keeping their noses above water. We need better churches, not more churches."

These statements appear to be common sense to many people, but they rest on several wrong assumptions. The error of this thinking will become clear if we ask, "**Why is church planting so crucially important?**"

>>Download Tim Keller's response to that question [here](#).