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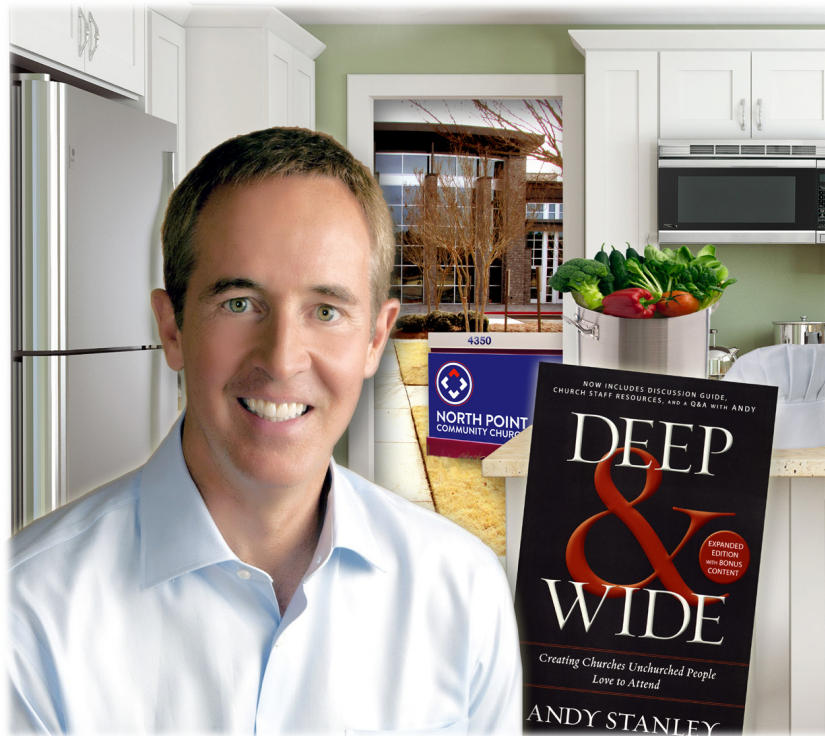
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Does Doctrine Matter Anymore? Andy Stanley Cooks Up a “Secret Sauce” for Building a Great Church

by Gary E. Gilley

A recent newspaper article described the phenomenal membership growth of three large churches.

When asked what sparked such growth, the pastor of one of the churches said, “Understanding budgets and balance sheets is as important as understanding church doctrine.” Another pastor said, “Church members are more interested in relational issues than doctrine. People care less about questions pertaining to what a church’s doctrine is and more about the question, ‘Does this church care for me?’”¹



evident by what these pastors said, the average Christian today does not care much about theology but rather seeks a community that cares for them, a particular style of music, an intimate experience, a service project to plug into, or any number of things.

For the most part, people are not choosing to become a member of a church on the basis of what it teaches. To be sure, certain managerial and practical elements are important to the operation of a local church. And the local

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We should not minimize the importance of fiscal responsibility, organizational needs, and loving community, but not long ago Christians sought out churches that reflected what they believed the Bible taught. As is

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