

## What is a Safe Church?

Excerpted from Safe People, Henry Cloud and John Townsend.

1. Grace is preached from the pulpit and is the foundation for how people are to be treated.
2. Truth is preached without compromise, but also without a spirit of law and judgment
3. The church leaders are aware of their own weaknesses and need to grow, and are open about their hurt, pain, failings, and humanity. Instead of “having it all together” and being insulated from confrontation and change, they are in a process of healing and opening up to their own safe people for support and accountability.
4. The church uses small groups to touch people’s lives, and sermons focus on community in the body of Christ as well as doctrine.
5. The culture is one of forgiven sinners, not self-righteous religious Pharisees.
6. The church, instead of being a self-contained unit and thinking it has all the answers, is networked into the community, availing itself of input from other sources such as churches, professionals, and organizations.
7. The teaching has a relational emphasis as well as a vertical one. Relationship between people is seen as part of the spirituality as well as relationship with God.
8. The teaching sees brokenness, struggle, and inability as normal parts of the sanctification process.
9. There are opportunities to serve others through a variety of ministries.