

KEY 2: STRATEGIC BUILDING

"The architectural design process is organized to ensure that objectives are reached in order of priority; the highest priorities are addressed and the largest design solutions are arrived at first, then the details fall in place in concert with the larger issues and ideas. Without this approach, the resulting building is just a random collection of unrelated decisions."

Heb. 11:8-10

8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. 9 By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

BUILDING THE BIBLICAL STRUCTURE: ESTABLISHING APOSTOLIC ORDER AND STRUCTURE

There are many models for senior leadership teams that I could discuss. I believe there is room for some creativity in how an apostolic structure operates. The function of the team depends on the gifts and offices that are available in that particular local church. Activating 5-fold ministry in a local church is not an easy task and cannot be forced. However, there are certain scriptural norms that should be included in every senior leadership structure.

- All local churches related apostolically to other apostles and five-fold ministries.
- There were appointed local church overseers and elders established in the local church.
- These appointed elders and overseers governed the local church with an accountability to other apostolic leadership. (I am including more details about the qualifications and functioning of eldership in the appendix 1)

Eph. 4:

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and \some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the [e]difying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

A. Define apostolic order

The kingdom structure to establish, expand and empower the body of Christ for dominion and fulfillment of the great commission.

B. Apostolic structure goals

- To equip the church for maturity and service
- To establish Kingdom government on earth
- To steward revival and harvest movements into sustainability

C. Apostolic mandate:

- Training (learning why)
- Equipping (learning how)
- Releasing (activating)

D. How is Apostolic order implemented?

By Shifting the pastoral paradigm of the church to Apostolic Structure

PASTORAL MODEL	VS	APOSTOLIC MODEL
Predominately focused on the needs of ministering to the needs of the sheep		Ministers to the needs of the sheep and focuses on equipping
Leadership structure is predominately influenced by Pastoral office and giftings		Leadership structure will reflect the office of the set leader with emphasis on 5-fold expression
Strong emphasis on building a "safe" environment		Strong emphasis on building a place for risk takers in a creative environment
The main vision is accomplished with staff and volunteers		The main vision is accomplished with recognized giftings and teams
Strategic planning seldom changes		Strategic planning is revisited year to year because Spirit led influence could redefine priorities
Worship is focused to bring restoration and wholeness to the people		Worship is focused on ministry to The Lord predominately
In an effort to keep the sheep safe, supernatural manifestations are avoided if they might descend into fleshly manifestations.		Intentionally establishes atmospheres for a full expression of the supernatural and release of spiritual gifts in demonstration.
Promotes body relationship through fellowship and a family atmosphere focusing on meeting individual and family, social, emotional and physical needs. Under the pastor gifting, this flows more naturally - Example: Give them a fish		Promotes body relationship through fellowship and family atmosphere and focuses on covenant, purpose and individual empowerment. The apostolic church has to be more intentional in creating social gatherings - Example: Teach them how to fish
Outreach and missions are more centralized through the church		Promotes missional living by equipping every individual to reach out
Discipleship focuses on individual enhancement with a focus on impacting your circle of influence. It focuses on individual personal process and betterment.		Discipleship prepares an individual personally to be empowered with a focus on global impact. Along with the personal process, we are becoming a "people and an army"
Prayer generally reflects praying for people and their needs as well as leaders and government.		Prayer is seen as a weapon of warfare used to shift atmospheres and nations until we are moved to make declarations of faith with the understanding that we are at war.
Teaching is based on the interpretation of the Scriptures with a lesson and instruction for practical application.		Teaching that is based on the interpretation of the Scriptures must include a prophetic revelation that results in spiritual impartation which, should then result in practical application.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF CHANGE

The Kingdom of God is not built for containment. It is meant for dominion and conquest! That means this is an ever increasing kingdom and it also means it is an ever changing atmosphere that must adapt to the increase.

Isaiah 9:7

There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom...

Matt. 16:18

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not [a]prevail against it.

A. Assessment

- revelational insight (what is God's Word to us in this season?)
- honest evaluation of visionary application (Are we still on track? Does every area of church still support the vision?)
- increasing need (in the early church, the need for deacons)

B. Communication

- MOST IMPORTANT: YOU MUST CHANGE VALUES BEFORE CHANGING STRUCTURES
- prepare the atmosphere (prayer, core group, define the target for change)
- develop strategy (how, when and where) (preaching emphasis, special speakers, special events, language tweaks through defining and redefining)
- strategically release information to appropriate spheres of influence (Elders? Leaders? Congregation?)

C. Implementation

- follow through plan
- prepare for opposition and fall out (If it's God, it's good!)

D. Build strong

- building blocks of a strong foundation (trust, faithfulness, holiness, consistent modeling, secure vision, authentic, missional, Word and Presence driven, accountable, relational)
- skillful and trained workers (on going training with systems that help people identify their areas of passion, established team culture - the nickel, chrome and steel principle)
- develop a clear path for leadership training

THE DEMANDS OF CHANGE FOR ENLARGEMENT

How good and how pleasant when brethren dwell together in unity. Psalm 133:1

Every release of visionary enlargement by the Word of the Lord requires:

- A new release of agreement
- A new release of intercession
- A new release of strategy
- A new release of commitment
- A new release of giving
- A new release of faithfulness
- A new release of grace