

# God's Plan for His Church

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A Manual for  
Church Planting  
And Church Renewal

*Using Biblical Principles that  
Transcend Cultures and Time*

Tim W. Bunn

# **God's Plan for His Church**

## **A Manual for Church Planting and Church Renewal**

**Fourth Edition, 2018**

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ISBN: 9780692173138

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# What Others Are Saying

“The manual opened my eyes to the bitter reality that today’s churches are off track from the biblical model. I learned to let the bible talk about the issue of church planting, and be more submissive to its authority and guidance. It was an eye-opening resource for me.”

Church Planter • Algeria

“This is a life changing book to those who would like to go back to the Word of God and apply the New Testament, especially the book of Acts. By applying these principles, we are experiencing revival in our families and churches in Zambia, and it is spreading to surrounding countries. Now the church is looking and acting more like the Early Church in Acts.”

Pastor • Zambia, Africa

“I can say this manual is next to the Bible in relation to the church and its ministry. You ask how and why? I say, ‘Because it takes the reader to the Bible itself to discover the supra-cultural and timeless biblical principles in establishing new churches.’ This manual is a tool God can use to empower you to discover the process God wants you to follow for a growing and powerful church.”

Church Planter • Myanmar

“God’s Plan for His Church is being used in Cambodia to strengthen and grow the church. This manual is a powerful tool which contains biblical principles inspired by the living word of God which are applicable to personal life, family, church and mission especially to plant more new churches in new areas where none exist.”

Chairman of NCC of Cambodia

“The Church is the beautiful bride of Christ in every culture where Jesus has transformed His people. This training is biblical with a very practical application of principles.”

Dr. Allen Karr, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary

“God’s Plan for His Church is a wonderful guide to compare today’s church with the New Testament Church. It is completely non-biased and is based 100% on the Word of God. I highly recommend this book for personal use as well as for church group studies. I have seen this implemented first hand and have seen powerful results.”

Church Planter • South America

“In this course, Tim Bunn has built a solid biblical foundation for church planting for starting healthy, reproducing churches. I heartily recommend this course not only for study but for developing a solid strategy that fits a church planter’s context.

Dr. Robert Vajko, International Church Planting Consultant

“It is amazing how the Spirit of God is moving in a powerful way in restoring His Church after using this manual.”

Church Planter • Bhutan

“The last fifteen years, I studied and applied this biblical philosophy in my life and ministry. When I used this manual in the ministry, I went from an educator to biblical church planter.”  
Church Planter • Karnataka, India

“By the end of the book each participant will have his own Bible-based, church planting strategy. The training method used to teach this manual is very simple. Each question presented makes the participants rely on the Holy Spirit to answer the truth from the Bible. The best thing about the manual is it is very practical.”  
Church Planter • Nepal

“God is using this manual to make a tremendous impact on the local churches in Vietnam. It is clear, complete and very useful in training church planters to establish new churches and to strengthen existing churches.”  
Church Planter • Vietnam

“This training manual has been a turning point in my ministry. After getting to know and understand what God wants from me as a church planter, I now follow the plan of God. He is building His church today from district to state and from state to other countries. This manual can help you discover that plan.”  
Church Planter • Bangladesh

“Wow, what a tool and based solely on the Word of God; *God’s Plan for His Church* is one of the greatest tools outside the Bible. It cuts through all the junk man has added over 2,000 years and goes right back to those timeless principles of the New Testament church. God has worked in my life through this book and I have seen him work in the lives of many in Bhutan.”  
Church Planter • Bhutan

“I was privileged to read and study *God’s Plan for His Church*, and work with a devoted team led by Tim Bunn. The course is greatly valued, spiritually and practically. I want every missionary and student to study this as their final seminary course so that they know the biblical methods God gave for church planting and can go out and be unstoppable church planters and pastors!”  
Rev. George Attieh, Baptist Seminary, Lebanon

“God has used this manual to change my life and given the men around me a deeper root in the Scriptures. Our church is acting more like the one that the Scriptures talk about and many are blessed because of it.”  
Businessman and Pastor • North Carolina

“Just like the subtitle says, this manual uses God’s timeless, supra-cultural principles for planting churches, and strengthening existing churches. There are no fads, gimmicks, catch-phrases, or anything that is going to be forgotten and gone in 10 years, just lesson after lesson of rightly dividing God’s Word on how churches are to be operating as a body and how the individual believer is to live his life in God’s Family.”  
Pastor • USA

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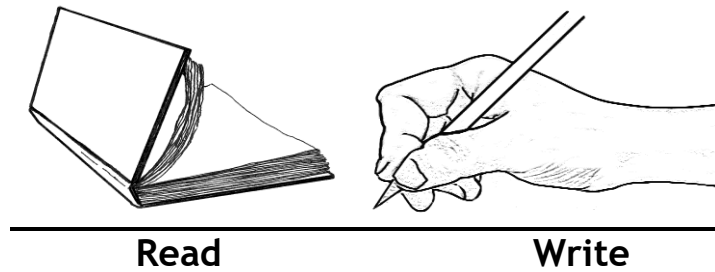
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# Pre-Work Instructions

If you believe God is leading you to work through and complete *God's Plan for His Church*, below are some instructions we would highly recommend that you work through both personally and with a partner if possible. After you have completed the instructions below or pre-work, we would consider it a privilege to meet with you face-to-face and complete the projects and personal application. See page 182 for copy of the certificate of completion. Please contact us at [newfoundationsinternational@gmail.com](mailto:newfoundationsinternational@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



The **Discussion**, **Application** and most of the **Projects** will be completed during our face-to-face meeting. When you have completed the **Observation** reading, **Meditation** section, and filling in the blanks, place the completion date in blank beside Lesson or Project on pages vii-xi (7-10). **Discussion** blanks can be filled in if you have someone else or a small group to work with you. (Note: See Supplements How to Study the Bible, pages 186-187).

Please let us know when you have completed the above instructions and we will make arrangements to meet with you face-to-face. We are praying for you as you consider this timely opportunity for a new beginning of power, freedom and joy in serving our Savior.

## TRAINING MODULES: GOD'S PLAN FOR HIS CHURCH

MEETINGS	DESCRIPTION	WORKSHOP (small groups)	ASSIGNMENT	LENGTH
#1	Introduction	Intro/Overview/Vision	Chapters 1-3	2 Days
#2	Follow-up	Chapters 1-3	Chapters 4-5	3 Days
#3	Follow-up	Chapters 4-5	Chapter 6	4 Days
#4	Launch	Chapters 6-7	"GO"	4 Days

MEETINGS	DESCRIPTION	WORKSHOP (small groups)	ASSIGNMENT	LENGTH
#1	Introduction	Intro/Overview/Vision	Chapters 1-4	2 Days
#2	Follow-up	Chapters 1-4	Chapters 5-6	4 Days
#3	Launch	Chapters 5-7	"Go"	5 Days

MEETINGS	DESCRIPTION	WORKSHOP (small groups)	ASSIGNMENT	LENGTH
#1	Introduction	Overview & Chapters 1-3	Chapters 4-6	5 Days
#2	Follow-up & Launch	Chapters 4-7	"Go"	5 Days

MEETINGS	DESCRIPTION	WORKSHOP (small groups)	ASSIGNMENT	LENGTH
#1	Prepare to Launch	Chapters 1-7	"Go"	28-30 Days

# Detailed Contents and Progress Record

*Put the date you completed the project/lesson on the line before the title.*

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# Acknowledgments

I have developed this church planting manual to be used for the glory of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I am grateful for many church leaders who have been blessed by the previous editions and revisions as well as the many translations of the Church Planting Manual used throughout the world. I want to particularly thank my dear brothers, Sherman Driver, Terry Manahan, Randy Matthews, and Tran Quoc Bay who have come alongside and made this manual possible through their wisdom, encouragement and partnership in the gospel.

I have been influenced over years of ministry through the books by great men of God like Roland Allen (1868-1947) who wrote many books on missions, including “Missionary Methods - St. Paul’s or Ours?” (Originally Published, London: Robert Scott 1912), (Download at: <http://www.newfoundationsinternational.org/training-resources.html>). Also, David Hesselgrave, “*Planting Churches Cross-Culturally, North America and Beyond*”, Baker Academic, 2000, and Gene Getz, “*Sharpening the Focus of the Church*”, Victor Books, 1984. Similarities to some of their materials may occur herein (See back cover for endorsements by David Hesselgrave and Gene Getz). I may have inadvertently used the material of others, but do not wish in any way to take away from the original author nor take credit or benefit for any such material.

Any revenue from this manual will not be used for the personal gain of the author or anyone else. All and any revenue will be used to provide translations around the world for our Lord’s glory!

Tim Bunn

# Foreword

This is not your normal type of book or Bible study! This manual leads anyone who is willing to allow Scripture to speak to their heart and begin a transformation unlike any other.

I was invited to join a mission's trip with Tim Bunn in 2007. There was one requirement - to work through all of the lessons before the team left. Many nights, as I pored over the questions and Scripture references, I could not hold back the tears of both joy and sorrow. Joy, because I was learning principles of truth from God's Word; sorrow, because earlier in life I had learned principles that were distorted and misapplied from previous church experiences.

What is unique about this book is the method of discovery by self-study. While there are clues to what you will learn, the Scriptures themselves speak through the Holy Spirit. The primary learning tool is the Bible. From my experience as a teacher and pastor, there are very few who learn what the church should look like by just observing Scripture alone. Most turn to books written on the subject rather than forming their faith and practice on Scripture alone.

I have often said that this manual gives you God's BIG PICTURE. It is easy to become immersed in a few subjects of truth and miss their connection to the whole. We must always see "*the whole counsel of God*" (Acts 20:27). From this view, you will walk through the Book of Acts where you discover the "key principles" of the Early Church. After this overview, you will study leadership in the Early Church and character qualities that multiply and sustain biblical leaders. Paul's letters are then studied in the order they were written. The first six lay a foundation in the pure gospel of grace; the next four strengthen and unify the church in the gospel, and the household of God is understood in his last three letters.

Throughout the manual, you are challenged to apply what you are discovering, to your own life, marriage, family and ministry. Vital subjects are studied with verses on each topic, giving a comprehensive review of what the Bible says about them.

The climax of this manual is chapter seven. The student who takes all that he learned from God's Word will form a strategy with these principles to be implemented in any culture, anytime and under any conditions. He or she will be UNSTOPPABLE!

The influence and insight of Roland Allen cannot be overlooked. He said, "The very first groups of converts must be so fully equipped with all spiritual authority in order that they could multiply themselves without any outside help. If the church is to be indigenous, it must spring up in the soil from the very first seeds planted." *The Spontaneous Expansion of the Church and the Causes Which Hinder It*. Download free at:  
<http://www.newfoundationsinternational.org/training-resources.html>

This will be a spiritual journey different from any you have ever had. I trust the Spirit of God will ignite a spontaneous growth in your heart as a result of launching into this study. Together we can reach every unreached people group on earth with the gospel of grace. Then the end will come (Matthew 24:14).

Sherman K. Driver

# Introduction

I would like to introduce *God's Plan for His Church*, a manual and workbook for Church Planting and Church Renewal. I believe this tool is relevant for today's church and leaders because it:

- **Lays** a foundation in the authority and sufficiency of Scripture.
- **Provides** an opportunity for a fresh work of the Holy Spirit.
- **Reveals** the importance of family in the process of church and ministry renewal.
- **Visually** illustrates the principles of God's plan for His Church from Pentecost forward.
- **Helps** leaders and churches become Christ-centered and self-sustaining like Paul.
- **Uses** powerful supra-cultural and timeless principles from Scripture.
- **Gives** biblical solutions to current issues facing today's family and church.
- **Teaches** a model of leadership and church planting and renewal; a model that is "unstoppable" and can actually thrive in poverty and persecution.

This manual is not theory or some Western or Eastern new teaching but a time-tested model proven historically in Acts. It is not written to teach a new method or improve the old methods! By following the example of Christ and the Apostles, in the power of the Holy Spirit, you can be successful in seeing a growing church planted and established. As you look to the Lord, be assured He desires to meet you, raise you up, further equip you, empower and guide you to plant and renew churches for His glory in your sphere of influence.

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# Chapter 1

## *Our Challenge*

# Return to the Scriptures



“I am constantly intrigued and challenged whenever I look at the logic and strategy of the young missionary church in the book of Acts, as I sought to “make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). Considering that the Early Church did not enjoy the numerical strength we have, or the technological advances we take for granted, one cannot but wonder how this small band of disciples and apostles made such a tremendous impact on their world. What was their secret? What can we learn from their strategy?”

—David Zac Niringiye, Uganda, Africa

**Discussion Questions:** If this is a group study, break up into small groups to discuss the following questions. Write in the blanks your discussion conclusions and report back to the whole group.

What do you think was the secret to the tremendous impact and expansion of the Early Church?

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What can we learn from the strategy of the Early Church? \_\_\_\_\_

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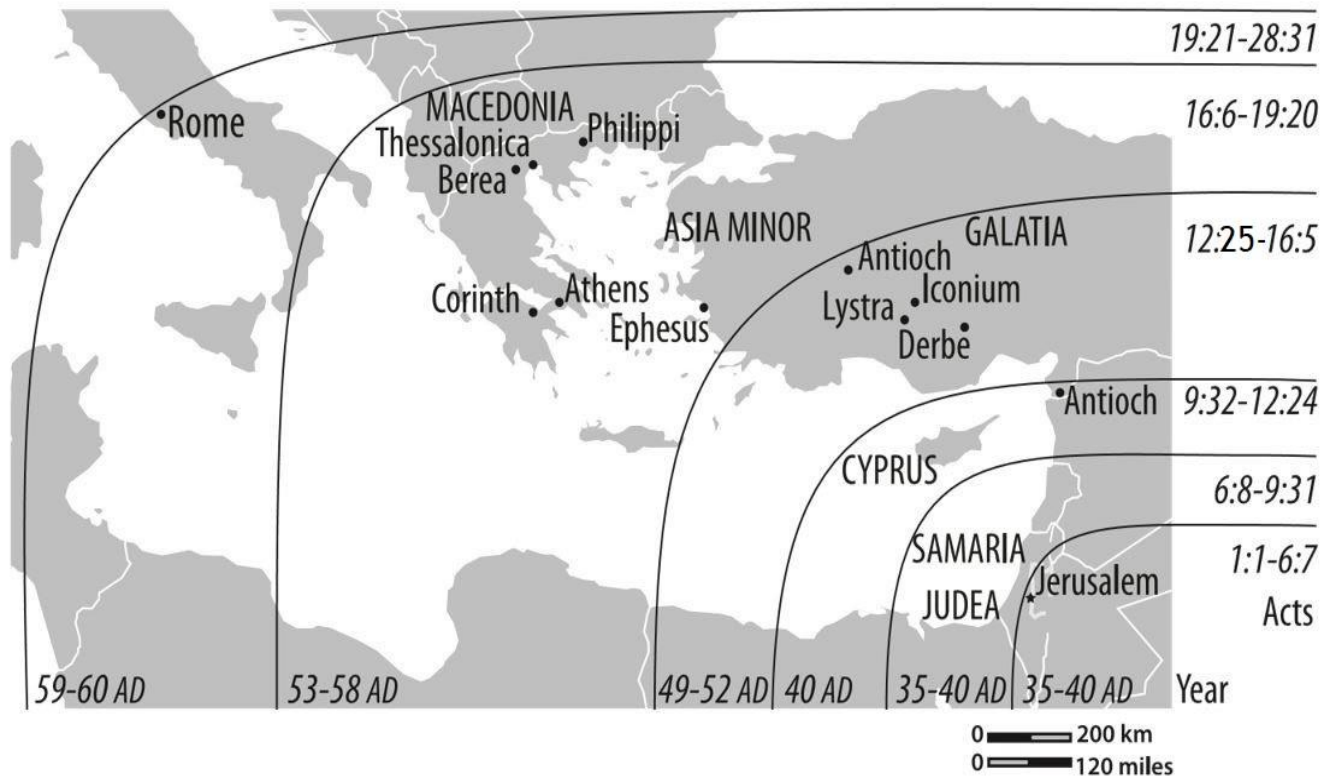
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## Paul's Biblical Example Introduced

Looking at the map below, how long did it take the gospel to spread from Jerusalem to Rome? \_\_\_\_\_. Yes, only 25 years! Let me ask you; do you know of any church in the USA or the world that is making that kind of progress and impact today?

Now turn to **Supplements** on pages 184-185 and look at the maps and determine how many years it took Paul to complete all three of his missionary journeys which started at Antioch about 47 A.D. \_\_\_\_\_. Amazing! Again, turn to **Supplements** on pages 184-185 and look under each map. How many miles or kilometers Paul travel on those three missionary journeys? \_\_\_\_\_. Yes, about 8,000 miles or over 12,000 kilometers. Do you know of anyone today that is making that kind of progress and impact? \_\_\_\_\_. Paul had no motorbikes, cars, planes or electronic equipment. Therefore, it would be difficult to find any better model than the Early Church and the Apostle Paul in the work of establishing growing and expanding churches.



**From Jerusalem to Rome is 5000 kilometers or 3100 miles.**

In just a little over ten years, Paul established the Church in four provinces: Galatia, Macedonia, Achaia and Asia Minor. Prior to AD 47 there were no churches in these provinces, but by AD 57 Paul spoke of his work there as being completed according to Romans 15:19-20.

Today, church planters, evangelists and apostles may have gained a greater number of converts than Paul, but unfortunately, few have established growing, reproducing churches like Paul did. Many apostles and church planters have traveled from place to place without any biblical plan or strategy. For the most part, modern day apostles or missionaries have neither understood nor practiced Paul's method of church planting and establishing.



But, some might say, “Things were different in Paul’s day.” Then one must ask the question, “Did Paul’s situation contribute to his success?” Objectively, one must admit that Paul’s converts were born and raised in similar social environments as we see in the world today. In Paul’s day, human sacrifice was common and belief in witchcraft and demons was universal. It was the immutable Spirit of Christ that enabled the apostles to banish these demons from hearts. Deliverance came not by denial, but by conquest through preaching the supremacy of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit! So, it is impossible to argue objectively that Paul’s environment had any advantage or disadvantage over our world today; if anything, it was a disadvantage based on our methodology today.

**As an introduction to Paul’s church planting strategy, let us briefly observe four key elements of his strategy as it relates with today’s church planting methodology:**

## **Evangelizing**

Paul’s evangelizing consisted of preaching a pure gospel: “Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2), “the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16). Paul’s supreme subject was the Cross along with repentance and faith alone, not philosophy or psychology or some program attempting to be relevant or tolerant to the culture. There was always an air of expectation pervading his preaching (Acts 26:27). His message stood alone. If people rejected him, like Christ (Luke 9:5), he shook the dust off his feet and moved on to find more receptive hearts where God was at work (Acts 13:51). If we continue to preach the gospel where God is not at work, we degrade the glorious gospel to the level of merely educating people’s intellect.

Another aspect of Paul’s evangelizing was not to preach the gospel to every person in a particular area by himself. Today we send out individuals and teams that try to personally reach as many individuals in an area as possible by sharing the gospel. By neglecting to use Paul’s strategy of starting churches that are capable of spreading the gospel, we are severely limited in what a single person or team can do. Paul’s goal was to establish reproducing churches that displayed the life of Christ in strategic areas (Acts 11:26). Such churches exist today, but are we utilizing them in our evangelistic strategies? It was from these churches located in key centers of intellectual and commercial activity that the gospel spread in every direction (1 Thessalonians 1:6-8).

## **Establishing**

The second element of Paul’s strategy was establishing. Paul established indigenous churches that were self-sustaining and could stand on their own. Instead of looking for outside support, these churches learned to depend on God and to not only share generously among themselves but with other churches (2 Corinthians 8:1-5). Paul’s example of supporting himself by his own hands was one of the reasons these churches quickly learned to become self-sustaining. Paul was very careful to avoid any appearance of financial profiting or having financial motives from his ministry.

Today, many of our churches and mission organizations have become financial institutions rather than the living Body of Christ. We commonly hear that organizations are unable to plant churches, to extend their missions, or to support their training institutions without financial assistance because they have learned to depend on money rather than the Lord.

Money subsidies create religious establishments that subsequently produce dependent converts who learn only to rely upon money instead of the Lord and the Holy Spirit.

Traditionally, the idea has been that the stability of the Church depends upon owning land, the erection of a building, or being financially supported. When we have secured a building, or have adequate financial support, we tend to think a church or mission is firmly established and approved by God. In reality, buildings and money have absolutely no power to produce spiritual fruit and can actually hinder spiritual results.

## Equipping

The third element of Paul's strategy was equipping. Normally Paul preached in a place for several months and then left behind an indigenous church capable of growth and expansion. In some churches he left qualified elders for equipping the saints for ministry. This process included grave risks, but Paul had such faith in Christ and the Holy Spirit that he did not shrink from the risks. Much of the time, Paul left fledgling churches and elders with a simple system of gospel teaching, oversight or shepherding criteria and two ordinances (See Supplements, Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper -pages 188-191) with no fixed standard or form for meetings or gatherings.

Paul taught the common people, many of whom were unable to read, by using the Old Testament and what the early Apostles had seen with their eyes and heard with their ears. The simplicity and brevity of his gospel teaching constituted its power. By his leaving, the Church was forced to think, speak, and serve on its own, although they were not totally free from the need for guidance and growth. He left elders with basic character qualifications, and instructions for equipping the saints for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12).

Frequently, churches today are overly dependent on the one person who started that church or the "one pastor" who serves there. Often converts remain reliant upon that one pastor or apostle and his successor for generations. When Paul left a church in a timely manner, it gave the church leaders the opportunity to step into their proper roles and responsibilities, forcing them to realize that they could not depend upon the Apostle Paul.

Today, we are not training believers to use the gifts the Holy Spirit has given them. We over-emphasize intellectual qualifications of leaders by relying heavily on artificial standards of formal education. Much of the time these worldly standards can even become a necessary requirement for ministry and leadership.

The new church should depend upon its own resources and more importantly, upon God. If any missionary today established a church like Paul, he might be told that his methods were hopeless and reckless. Yet the facts remain clear; Paul was the most successful founder of churches that this world has ever known.

## Expanding

Finally, Paul's expanding strategy came as a result of the leadership of the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:1-4). It is interesting to observe how the gospel went from Jerusalem to the world when the Holy Spirit came upon them at Pentecost. These new converts naturally, or maybe we should say, "supernaturally," became evangelists. Why? Because when a person received the Spirit, he/she would begin to seek to bring others to the saving knowledge of Jesus as seen in Acts. Historically, every great revival, whether the Haystack, Great Awakenings,

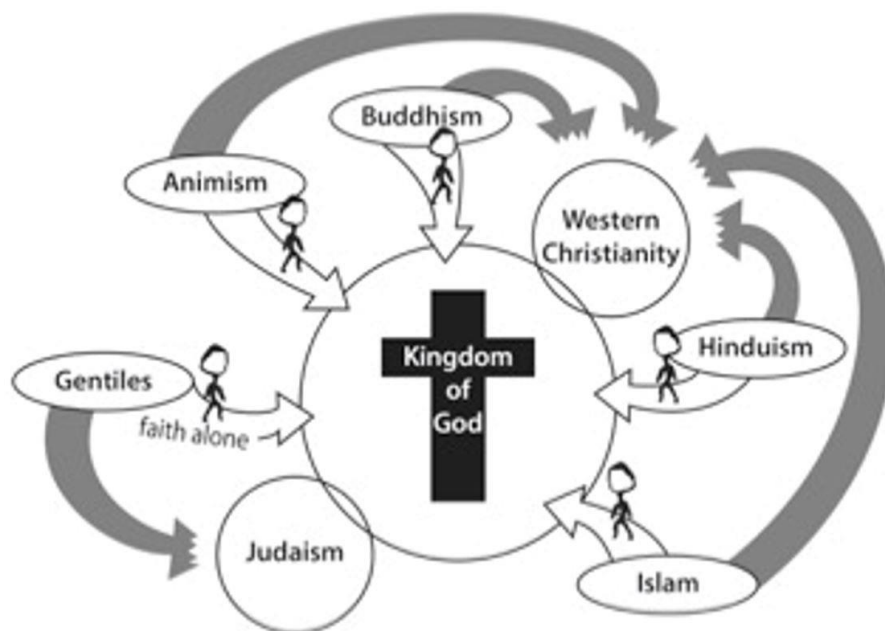
Welsh or the South Korean, resulted in evangelism and obedience to the Great Commission. This is not surprising since the Spirit that we receive is the missionary Spirit—the Spirit of Jesus who came into the world to redeem lost souls to the Father. We will learn from Acts how the churches were strengthened in faith and increased in number in Galatia, and how the Word of God spread to Macedonia and Achaia from Thessalonica, and how the gospel spread throughout neighboring countries from Ephesus (1 Thessalonians 1:5-9).

Paul led these new believers to understand the importance of the Spirit of Christ, whom they willingly submitted to. He set for them an example that was in accord with the mind of Christ. Paul was persuaded that the indwelling Spirit of Christ in His power and passion would enable the church to expand. When the foundation of the church is not properly laid, I believe that the evangelistic Spirit is quenched, resulting in a stagnant church. This is yet another compelling reason to use Paul’s proven model and method of training; we are told to follow or imitate Paul as he followed Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1).

**Today’s churches**, for the most part, are stagnant and weak in comparison to the Early Church in Acts. Below are three disturbing symptoms we see in many of today’s churches and missions. First, we will observe these symptoms and then we will discuss each one on page 21 so we can find solutions to these problems.

1. We see very little impact in the community and beyond, like in the Early Church (Acts 17:6). Most churches are not multiplying, disciples are not increasing and the Word of the Lord is not spreading like it did in the Early Church (Acts 6:7). Look again at the map on page 16 and observe the dates attached to the geographical progress of the spread of the gospel.

2. We have not succeeded in planting truly indigenous churches. In most countries outside of the west, the Christian faith is still considered a foreign or Western religion. The diagram below helps explain this problem. For instance, in the early Jewish Church the Jews wanted the Gentiles to become Jewish in order to enter the kingdom. In today’s Western church, some missionary efforts have sincerely, and maybe unconsciously, enticed new believers to become Western in order to enter the kingdom or Church. (See **Explanation** on the next page.)



**Explanation:** In the Early Church Paul strongly opposed Gentiles becoming Jewish in order to enter the Kingdom or Church. Anything that added or took away from the gospel of grace was a false faith. Paul taught that it was “faith alone” in Christ which enabled a person to enter the kingdom. Paul’s strong stand on grace moved the seed of the gospel from a Jewish context to a Gentile context in only twenty to thirty years (Galatians 1:6-9). Today, the gospel has been in some countries for hundreds of years and is still not indigenous.

Therefore, as a result of Paul’s strong stand on the pure gospel, there was a rapid expansion of the gospel from Jewish Jerusalem to the Gentile world. Again, look at the map on page 16 and see the dates. Modern day missions have unintentionally and sincerely told us, or have given the impression, that new believers should look like the Western church in order to be the church. Although God has used and continues to use modern day missions, there is no doubt our Western culture and methods have greatly hindered the expansion of the indigenous church, particularly among the third world people groups.

3. Most missions and churches in the third world are not self-sustaining. Many do not meet their own needs and continue to appeal for more outside money and resources. There is an unrealistic and unbiblical fear that without foreign support their church or mission will surely cease to exist. The diagram below uses the USA and Asia as an example, picturing this dependency on money. We strongly suggest that you study the Supplement on page 195-196, **“Giving and Financial Matters”**.



As you can see, when a ministry, mission or church is built or connected with money, then its ‘lifblood’ can become money. Therefore, when the money stops, the ministry stops. Money can become a substitute for the Holy Spirit and cause the mighty weapons of God to become powerless and ineffective. When the Church is connected to the Holy Spirit it is unstoppable, self-sustaining and a powerful force that the gates of hell cannot stop (Matthew 16:18). **Note:** One purpose of this course is to help you return to the way of Christ, the way of the Holy Spirit and the Apostles so that the Church today can be liberated from this type of dependency and become an unstoppable force in the world today. The Apostle Paul’s desire for the Thessalonians was that they would walk properly before outsiders and **“be dependent on no one”** except the Holy Spirit (I Thessalonians 4:12). Keep in mind, if you are going to plant a typical “Western Church”, then you will need money.

## Contrasting the Early Church with Today's Church

Discuss together (if you can meet with others) these questions and write in the blanks your conclusions. Don't be afraid to honestly share your critical thoughts and concerns.

1) Why are most churches today not making the kind of progress and impact that the Early Church did in spreading the Word and turning their world upside down for Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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2) Would your church or ministry continue if the Holy Spirit was removed? What would change? \_\_\_\_\_

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3) Why have we not been more successful in planting indigenous churches and ministries in the world today like the early Jewish Church did in the Gentile world? \_\_\_\_\_

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4) Why are most of today's churches, ministries and missions still not self-sustaining like the churches that Paul established? \_\_\_\_\_

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*In spite of our findings, God is moving today like **NEVER** before in all of church history. What a great time to be alive! Today there are great "church planting movements" around the world and God is inviting you to join these movements. First let us define a "church planting movement:"*

A church planting movement is an accelerated multiplication of indigenous disciples and churches planting churches. This movement flows through families and people groups, and is normally beyond the influence of those who introduced the gospel to them. Not only is the Early Church a historical example of this type of movement but China provides us with a modern-day example. Years ago, Hudson Taylor (1832-1905), a missionary to China, introduced the gospel to the Chinese and today there is an extraordinary rapid church planting movement of God in China without significant Western involvement. Now let's look at the Bible concerning Church and Kingdom growth.

First of all, it is obvious from Jesus' teachings concerning His Kingdom that He expected dramatic and extraordinary growth. One of the many illustrations of this is the parable of the mustard seed in Matthew 13:31-32. The mustard seed is one of the smallest of seeds, and when planted, grows larger than all the other garden plants which have larger seeds. The end result of the tiny mustard seed is an enormous tree.

Secondly, Christ seemed to indicate that the gospel seed was to be implanted into other cultures indigenously as previously discussed. A brother in Burma told me that we brought over the whole flower already planted in the pot rather than just the seed. Matthew 13:33 uses a "word picture" by comparing the gospel to being planted into a culture as yeast is mixed into a large amount of dough. The whole batch of dough is impacted from within by a little yeast. We already discussed an illustration recorded in Acts of cross-cultural evangelism when the Jewish church morphed into a Gentile church within twenty to thirty years. Yet today, after hundreds of years, Christianity still remains largely a foreign or Western religion, particularly in the 10-40 Window (See map on page 31) where most of the unreached people groups are located. When Christianity is perceived as a foreign faith or religion, then this expected rapid spread of the gospel is dramatically hindered. So, what can we do? We can do things which will "accelerate" the movement of God and we can do or not do things that "inhibit" the movement of God. We will call these "accelerators" and "inhibitors."

**Accelerators** are like having air in a motorbike or car tire; they represent church planting or renewal actions, or the absence of actions, that may not be measurable and may take longer to see fruit, but ultimately result in strong churches being established with lasting kingdom results. **Note: One of the purposes of this manual is to help accelerate and sustain church planting movements by using biblical supra-cultural and timeless principles.** This will be accomplished by building biblical tracks for these church-planting movements to run on while laying a biblical foundation for the movement to stand on.

**Inhibitors** are like having no air in the motorbike or car tire; they represent church planting or renewal actions or omissions that may bring measurable short-term results but are much more likely to inhibit the Church from becoming fruitful and a rapid movement of Christ with lasting results. An example of this can be found with the Hmong people group in Vietnam and many other places around the world. Case studies that support this can be found in Church Planting Movements by David Garrison (See [www.newfoundationsinternational.org](http://www.newfoundationsinternational.org) Training Resources for free download). Below, I have started a list of accelerators and inhibitors which may or may not be accurate within your culture but will give you something to think about as we bridge God's supra-cultural timeless principles into today's Church (See bridge diagram on page 42).

# Project A - Identifying Accelerators and Inhibitors

Fill in the blanks below with your own list of accelerators and inhibitors that are relevant to your own situation and culture. It is helpful to discuss these with others who are familiar with your situation and culture. Remember, these accelerators and inhibitors can change from time to time and from culture to culture. Ask yourself the question: “what will accelerate or hinder spreading the gospel, the movement of the Holy Spirit, planting and renewal of churches, and making this work truly indigenous where I am?”

Accelerators	Inhibitors
Authority and Sufficiency of God’s Word	Bible Not Enough
Increasing Christ and Decreasing Man	Increasing Man
Churches Planting Churches	Individualistic Evangelism
Training “in” Ministry	Training “for” Ministry
Indigenous Leadership	Foreign Leadership
Self-Sustaining and Debt Free	Dependent on Money and Financial Debt
Christ, Head of the Church	Pastor, or Man as Head of the Church
Local Identity	Foreign Identity
Releasing Disciples and Leaders	Retaining Disciples and Leaders
Persecution and Suffering	Ease, Pleasure, and Entertainment

***The Holy Spirit is moving today and extending to each of you a personal invitation to join Him at work and be a part of this awesome adventure! Will you go? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_?***

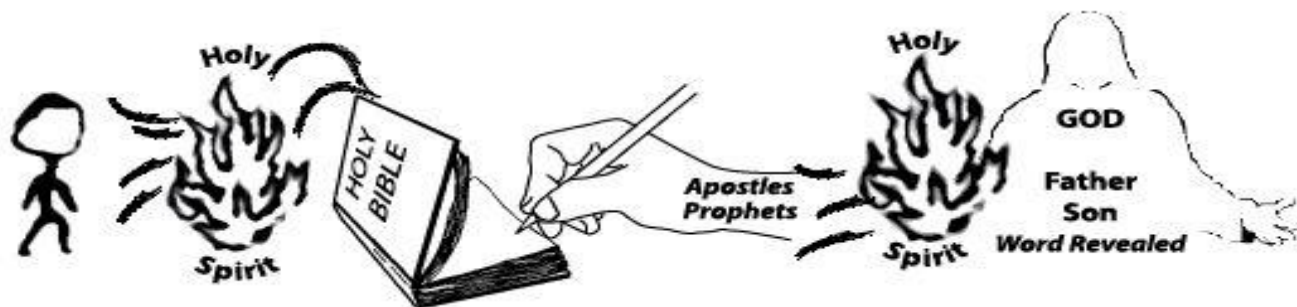
# What is the Purpose of *God's Plan for His Church*

The purpose of this course is to set forth methods and principles used by the Early Church that produced such amazing results in a brief time and to bridge those principles into today's Church so that we may see amazing results for our Father's glory among all the people groups of the world.

## What do we want to accomplish by completing this manual?

1. Restore or renew our courage and confidence in the authority and sufficiency of Scripture and the Holy Spirit to plant and establish growing churches.

**STOP:** Before going any further, read Supplement How to Study the Bible, pages 186-187.



The Word of God or “Scripture alone” is your foundation. Building on anything else is doomed for collapse sooner or later. As you hear God speak concerning His own Word, you will observe that the living Word of God is enough and provides you with *everything* you need to fulfill your calling.

**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about the authority and sufficiency of God's Word as it relates to your life, family and church.

Ezra 7:9-10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 19:7-14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 119:9-16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 119:105 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 138:2 \_\_\_\_\_



Jeremiah 23:28-29 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 4:4 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 24:35 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 4:4, 8, 10 \_\_\_\_\_

John 1:1, 14 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 6:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 12:24 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 13:48-49 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 19:20 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Thessalonians 2:13 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Timothy 3:16-17 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 4:12 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:22-25 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Peter 1:3-4 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Peter 1:19-21 \_\_\_\_\_

**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a brief summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God's Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes) \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today. \_\_\_\_\_

What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church? \_\_\_\_\_

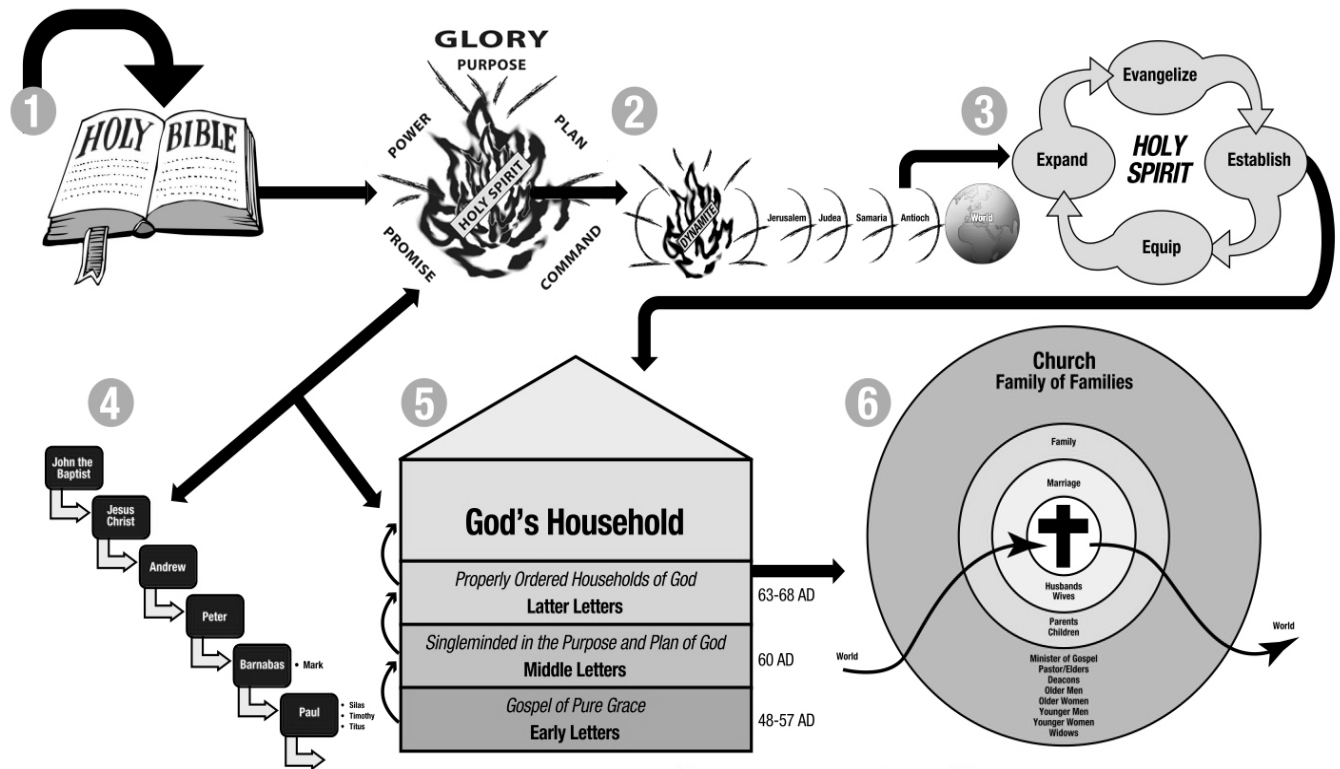
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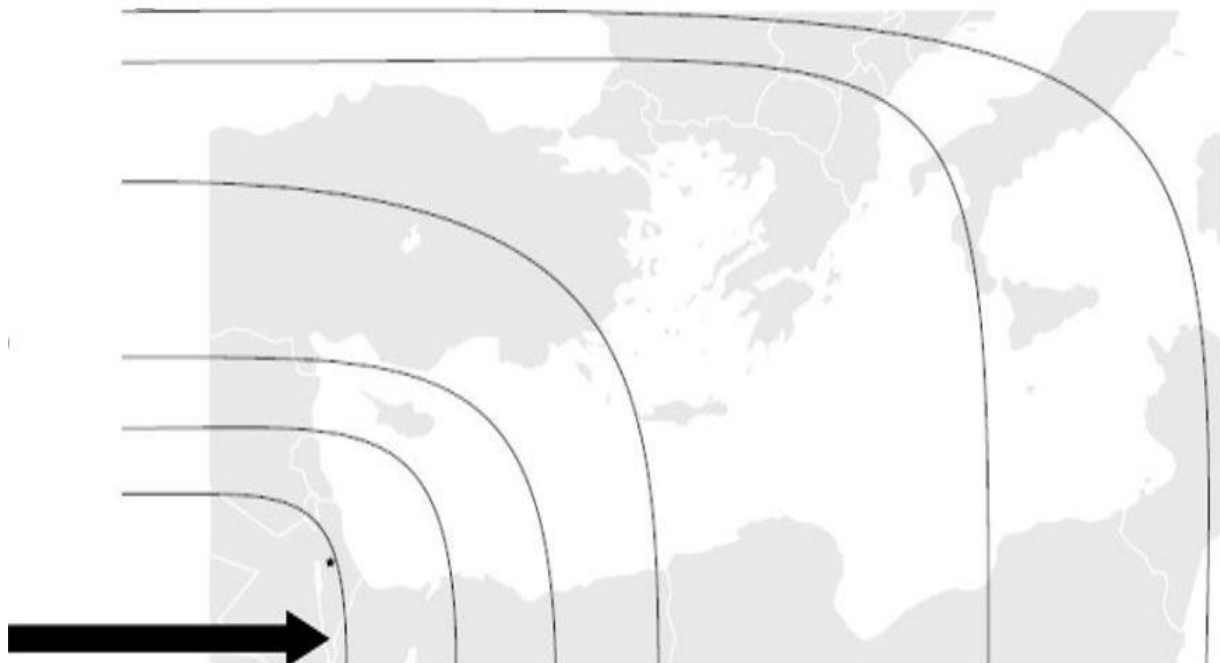
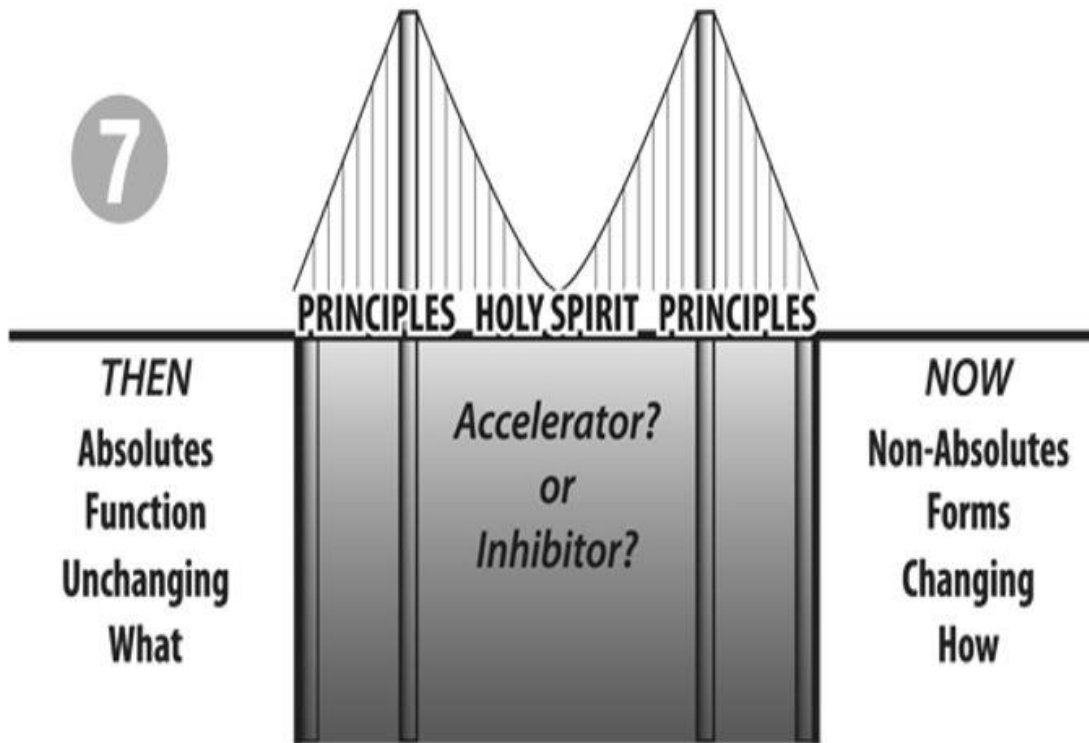
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2. Paint a biblical vision of God’s plan for His Church; not man’s plan and not the Western plan, but God’s Plan. The following diagram will serve as an illustration of God’s plan detailed in the 6 chapters of this manual.

# God’s Plan for His Church

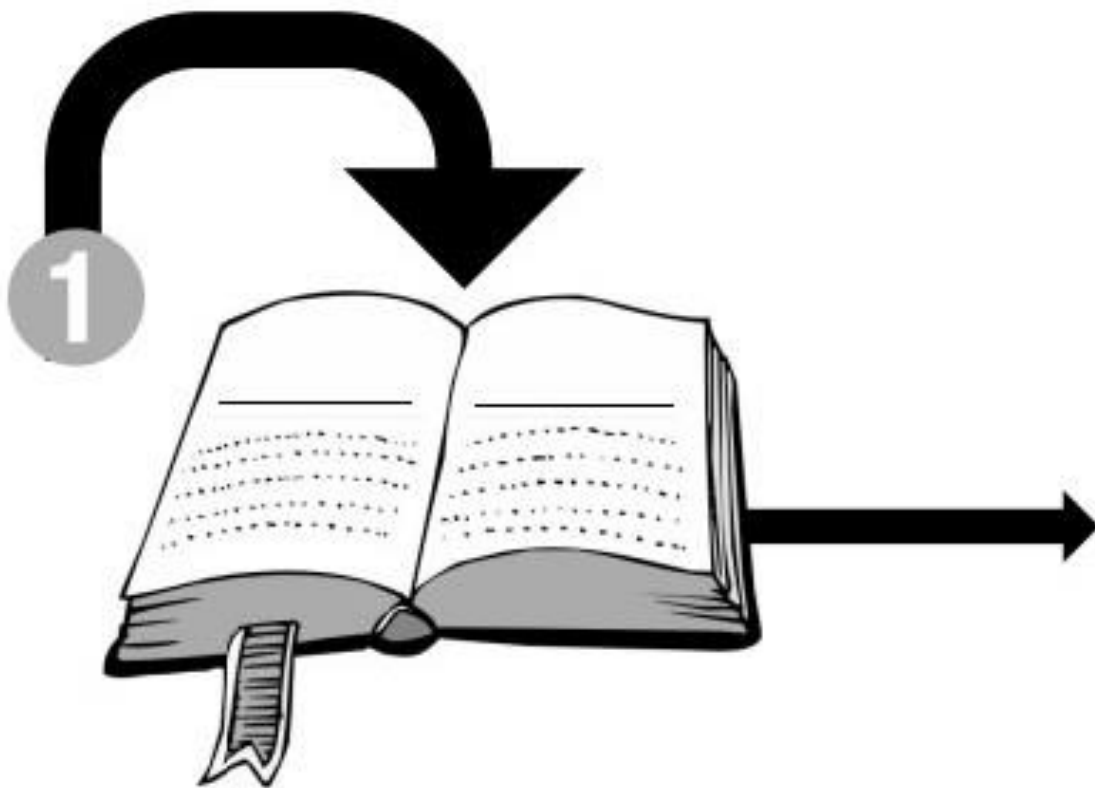


3. **Start** a journey of developing your own strategy of church planting and renewal. This strategy will be built on biblical, simple and practical principles that will work in any culture, anytime, anywhere and *not* a strategy that is dependent on man, buildings or money. (See #4 on page 27.) The following diagram illustrates your final project in chapter 7.



4. Before we start this journey in Chapter 2, we want to encourage you to go back to building your life, marriage, family, ministry and church on the Word of God alone. Read #3 on page 27 again and think about how important it is to make God's Word your ONLY authority for this training. Spend whatever time you need right now with the Lord before going any further in this book. You might consider Joshua's commitment as he stood alone before the whole nation; "*As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord*" (Joshua 24:15). If you agree to this biblical strategy for yourself, review chapter 1, and proceed to Chapter 2.

***Review Chapter 1 before moving on to Chapter 2 and fill in the missing words in the diagram below.***

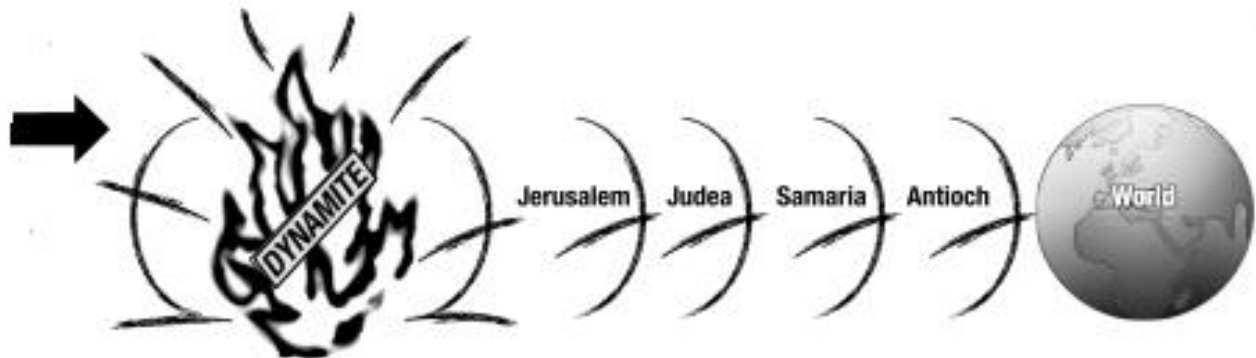


God makes it very clear in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 2 Peter 1:3-4 along with many other Scriptures that His Word is all we need. His Word *alone* provides the only textbook necessary for you to complete this manual, except you will need the Holy Spirit as well. In the Book of Acts, God also makes it very clear that He has sent the gift of the Holy Spirit; He is no secret! In John 14:26; 16:13, Jesus promised that the "*Holy Spirit...will teach you all things and...guide you into all truth*". In other words, we have everything we need to do what God has called us to do. This is our foundation that we will build upon. Now let us move to Chapter 2 and see God's Purpose and Plan for you, your family and church.

# Chapter 2

*Our Challenge*

# See God's Purpose and Plan



## God's Ultimate Purpose is to Show Forth His Wisdom and Glory!

Scripture reveals God has a definite purpose and plan for His Church. The ultimate goal of His Church is not evangelizing, establishing, equipping or expanding, but it is to make known His wisdom to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places and for the earth to be filled with the knowledge of His glory (Ephesians 3:10, 21).

Evangelizing, establishing, equipping or expanding are only God's "means or way" to display His wisdom and glory. Therefore, we will see from Scripture that God's ultimate purpose and goal is accomplished through His Church by preaching the gospel and revealing His plan to all nations or people groups, so that they will be glad and sing for joy (Psalm 67:3-4).

## Project B

# Revealing God's Purpose and Plan

## God's Plan for His Church

### A. God's Purpose

1. According to the following verses, describe God's Glory as it relates to you and the earth:

Numbers 14:21 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 72:19 \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 48:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Habakkuk 1:5; 2:14 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 10:31 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Corinthians 3:18 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 1:12, 14 \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 1:27 \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 21:23 \_\_\_\_\_

2. According to Colossians 1:16-18 who should have preeminence in all things?

\_\_\_\_\_

### B. God's Plan

What is God's "plan" according to Matthew 16:18? \_\_\_\_\_

The original word translated "Church" in the English Bible is "*ekklēsia*". This word is the Greek word "*kalēō*" (to call), with the prefix "*ek*" (out from). Thus, the word means "the called-out" people. Here are a few more terms used in the Bible to describe the Church:

Dwelling Place of God	Ephesians 2:22
Temple of God	2 Corinthians 6:16
Building of God	1 Corinthians 3:9
Family of God	Ephesians 3:15
Household of God	1 Timothy 3:15
Flock of God	Acts 20:28
Bride of Christ	Revelation 21:9
Body of Christ	1 Corinthians 12:12-13

### C. God's Promise

1. **What** is God's "promise" according to Mathew 16:18? \_\_\_\_\_
2. **When** will this promise be fulfilled according to Matthew 24:14\*? \_\_\_\_\_
3. **How** will this promise be fulfilled according to Matthew 24:14\*? \_\_\_\_\_

\*The word "nation" used in Matthew 24:14 comes from the Greek Word "*ethnos*" or "*ethnic*". The literal meaning of "nation" is an ethnic group or a people group. A people group is defined as a group of people through which the gospel can flow without significant barriers of understanding like language, customs and family identities.

We will see below that from Genesis to Revelation God has always desired redemption for and praise from all the people groups of the world. It is through the worship and praise of these people groups that God will fill the earth with His Glory. Read the following verses and write what you learn about God's will for all the people groups of the world:

Genesis 12:1-3\* \_\_\_\_\_

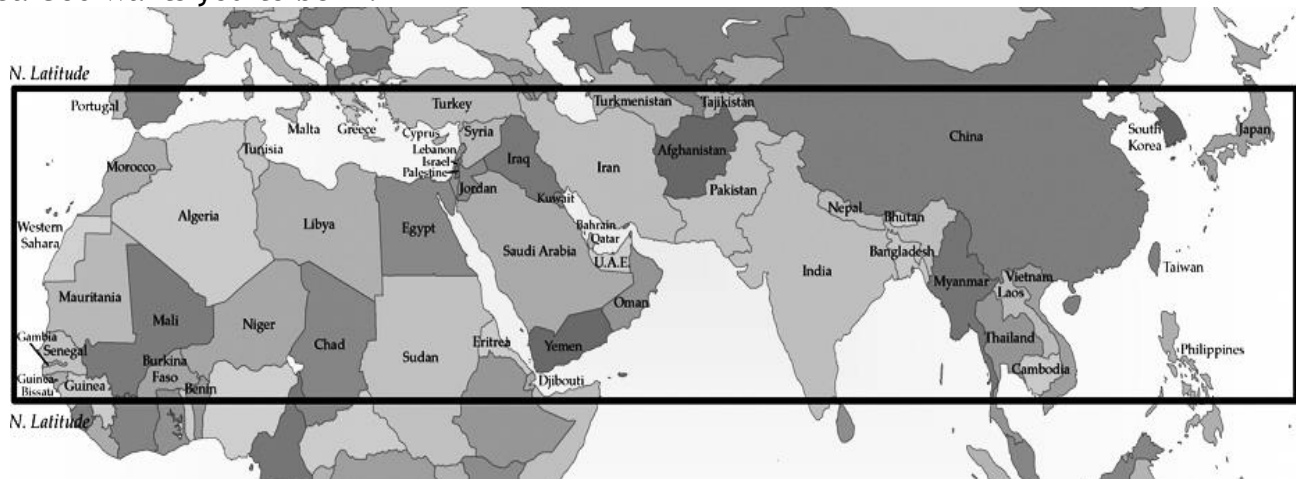
Psalms 67\* \_\_\_\_\_

Habakkuk 1:5; 2:14\* \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 28:19-20\* \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 5:9; 14:6; 21:24; 22:1-5\* \_\_\_\_\_

Most of the people groups who have not been reached with the gospel are located in what is called the 10/40 window. The window you see below is the rectangular area of North Africa, the Middle East and Asia between 10 degrees north and 40 degrees north of the equator latitude. See Map below and identify the area you live in. Are you living in the area God wants you to be in?



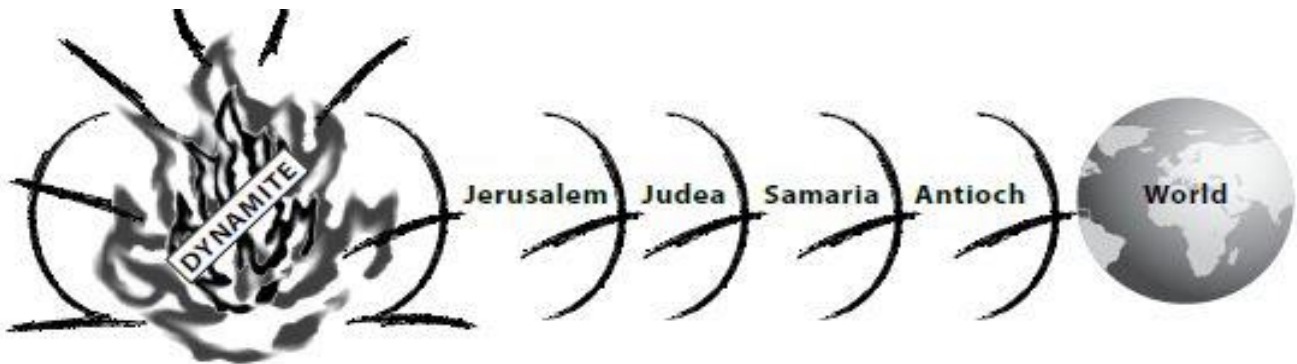
The 10/40 window comprises 1/3 of the world's land and 2/3 of the world's people. Over an estimated 3 billion individuals live in approximately 5,832 unreached people groups in the 10/40 Window. The 10/40 Window is often called "The Resistant Belt" and includes the majority of the world's Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists. Ninety-five percent of these people have not even heard the gospel. \*For more information see [www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net).

## D. God's Command

1. When are we to obey God's "command" according to Matthew 28:19-20? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is God's "command" according to Mark 16:15? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Where is God's "command" to be carried out according to Luke 24:46-47? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How is God's "command" to be carried out according to John 20:21? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## E. God's Power

1. What is God's "power" according to Acts 1:8? \_\_\_\_\_
2. When will his disciples receive this "power" according to Acts 1:8? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What will his disciples become when they receive this "power" according to Acts 1:8? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where will his disciples be a "witness" according to Acts 1:8? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



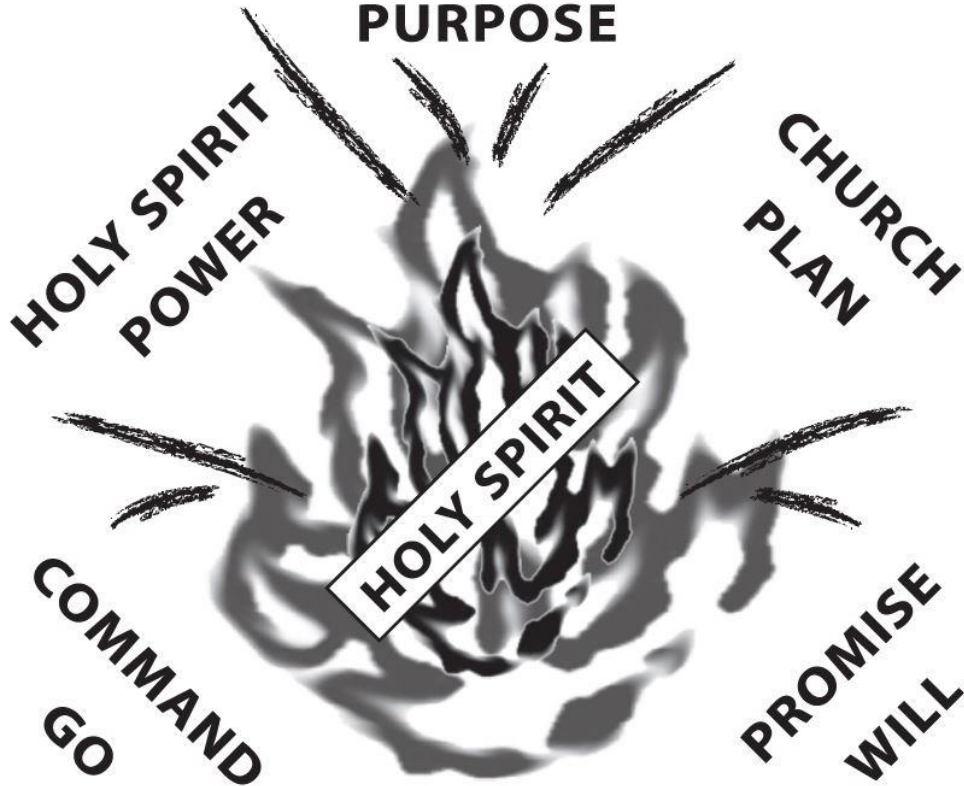
**NOTE:** A more literal translation of Acts 1:8 should be *"You will be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, both in all Judea, both in Samaria, and both to the end of the earth"* since the word "and in" (appearing in many Bible translations) means "both or in union with" (Dictionary Biblical Language).

5. When was the promised Holy Spirit sent to His disciples according to Acts 2:1-4?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. If the Holy Spirit was sent at Pentecost, why does today's Church often look and act more pre-Pentecostal (Before Pentecost) than post-Pentecostal (After Pentecost)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# GLORY

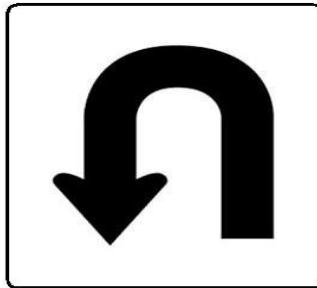
## PURPOSE



7. Now let us review using the diagram above. Since we have learned that the Holy Spirit is vital in the expansion and impact of the Early Church, how can we apply what we have learned about the Holy Spirit?



AND



AND



A Chinese Christian leader, after visiting the US, was asked what impressed him most about the churches and ministries in US. He thought and replied, "I am amazed what they can do without the Holy Spirit." What an indictment against the Western Church! Let us stop right here before proceeding any further and make sure we are not like the Laodicean church, who thought they were rich and had no need of the Holy Spirit, not realizing they were "wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked". Turn now and read Revelation 3:14-22. As you observe from Scripture, God provides a way back into the way of Christ and the Apostles. Right now, He is standing at the door of our hearts begging and knocking for us to open. If you will turn and invite Him in, He will come in and take over our lives. Do you hear Him knocking today?

It has been said that we are as close to God as we want to be, and likewise I believe our churches are as much like the Early Church in Acts as we sincerely desire them to be. Are you tired of reaping the same results by using the same human methods? Then turn back! Jesus says, “Be zealous and repent!” Otherwise this will be just another superficial, powerless and wasted study. Jesus said rivers of living water would flow out of us (John 7:38-39). The Holy Spirit is “able (and desires) to do exceedingly abundantly more than we ask or think according to His power at work within us” (Ephesians 3:20). Please “do not quench” (1 Thessalonians 5:19) or “grieve the Holy Spirit” (Ephesians 4:30). He is pleading and begging to take over our lives and ministries.



Be careful with your busyness and traditions (See above cartoon); they can actually make void the Word of God (Mark 7:13). This is a new day and we cannot continue to put a piece of unshrunk cloth (Matthew 9:16) on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. Neither can we continue to put new wine into old wineskins (Matthew 9:17) for the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. Let us forget those things which are behind (Philippians 3:13), repent, and start a new fresh walk in the way of Christ and the Holy Spirit. As we previously discussed, much of life and ministry that is going on in the church today resembles more of a ‘pre-Pentecostal’ setting than a post-Pentecostal. We teach about the incarnation, the death, the burial and the resurrection of Christ but neglect the ascension and Pentecost. Without Pentecost there is no hope, no resurrection power, no transformation and no significant witness. Having the Holy Spirit in us is absolutely essential to be like the Early Church! **We are as much like Acts as we desire to be.** Therefore, to help you, let’s hear from God’s Word so we can learn more about the powerful work of the Holy Spirit. Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about the Holy Spirit. Before you start, you might want to take another look at Supplement **How to Study the Bible**, page 186-187.



Genesis 1:1-2 (Creation) \_\_\_\_\_

2 Kings 6:13-18 (Spiritual Eyes) \_\_\_\_\_

Ezekiel 36:25 - 37:14 (Life) \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 3:11 (Fire) \_\_\_\_\_

John 1:32-33 (Dove) \_\_\_\_\_

John 3:3-8 (Wind) \_\_\_\_\_

John 7:37-39 (Rivers) \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:12-26 (Helper) \_\_\_\_\_

John 16:7-14 (Convict) \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 1:8 (Witnesses) \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 2:1-4** (Filled) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 5:3-4** (Godhead) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 19:1-6** (Received) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**1 Corinthians 12:12-13** (Baptized) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 1:13-14** (Sealed) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 3:20** (Power) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 7** How many times is I and Me mentioned? \_\_\_\_\_ What does this tell us about ourselves (Romans 7:21-24)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 8** How many times is the Holy Spirit mentioned? \_\_\_\_\_ What does this tell us about the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:37-39)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Galatians 3:2-6** (Faith) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Galatians 5:16-25** (Live and Walk) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 4:30-31 (Grieve) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 5:18 (Filled) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 5:32 (Obey) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 Thessalonians 1:5-9 & 5:19 (Quench) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 22:17 (Invitation) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a brief summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God’s Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

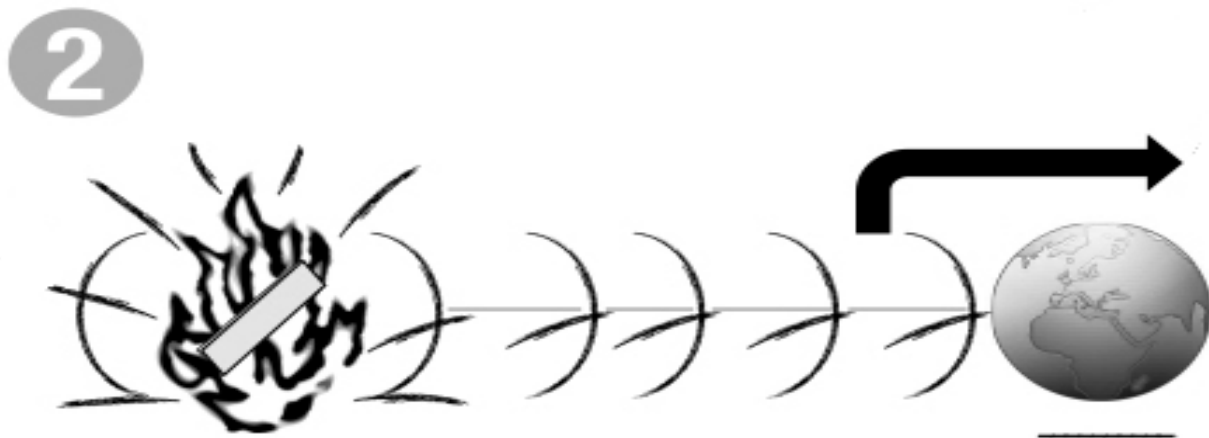
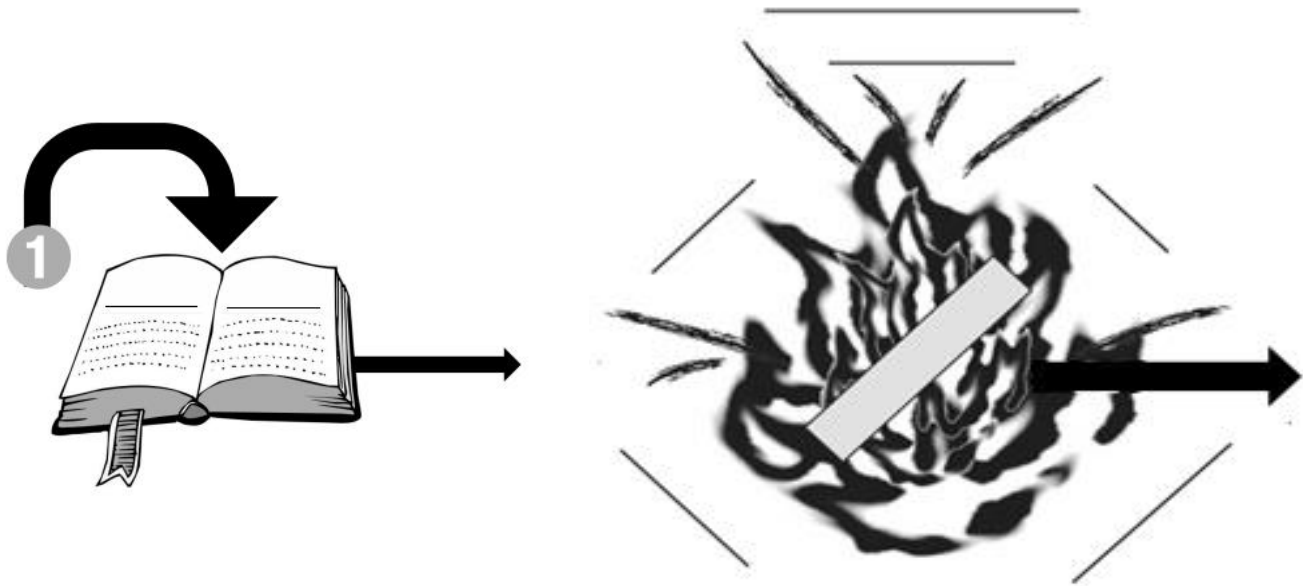
\_\_\_\_\_

What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

Review Chapter 1 and 2 diagrams below before moving on to Chapter 3. See if you can fill in all the blanks in the diagrams without looking back:

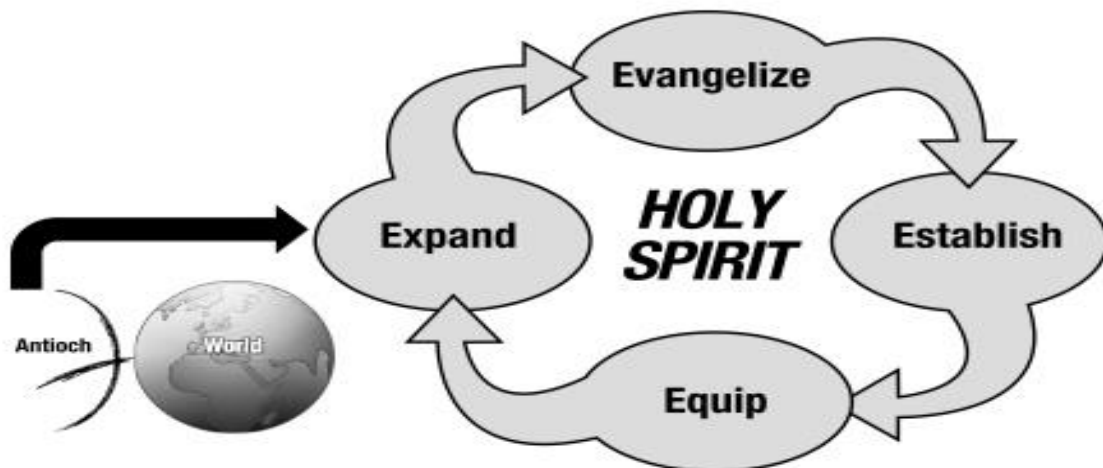


God's Word makes it very clear in John 5:17-19 and Acts 1:4-8, along with many other Scriptures, that you can do nothing of value without the Holy Spirit. God's Word and the Holy Spirit provide everything you need to complete this manual and fulfill God's call upon your life. The Word of God is your foundation and the immutable Holy Spirit is your power.

# Chapter 3

## *Our Challenge*

# Understand God's Plan



## **The Holy Spirit Comes and God's Plan for His Church Unfolds**

We have learned that God has a plan to reveal His manifold wisdom to the rulers and authorities in heavenly places. God's purpose and plan is to be accomplished through His Church by preaching the pure gospel and revealing the mystery of God's wisdom.

Now we embark on a journey like no other. We will take a close look at Luke's historical account in Acts that focuses on the establishment and growth of the Early Church. The Church was not only born, it gave birth to a powerful force that literally turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6) in ways nobody would have imagined or thought possible. Truly this will be an unforgettable journey, so hold on as we join the movement of the Holy Spirit through Acts.

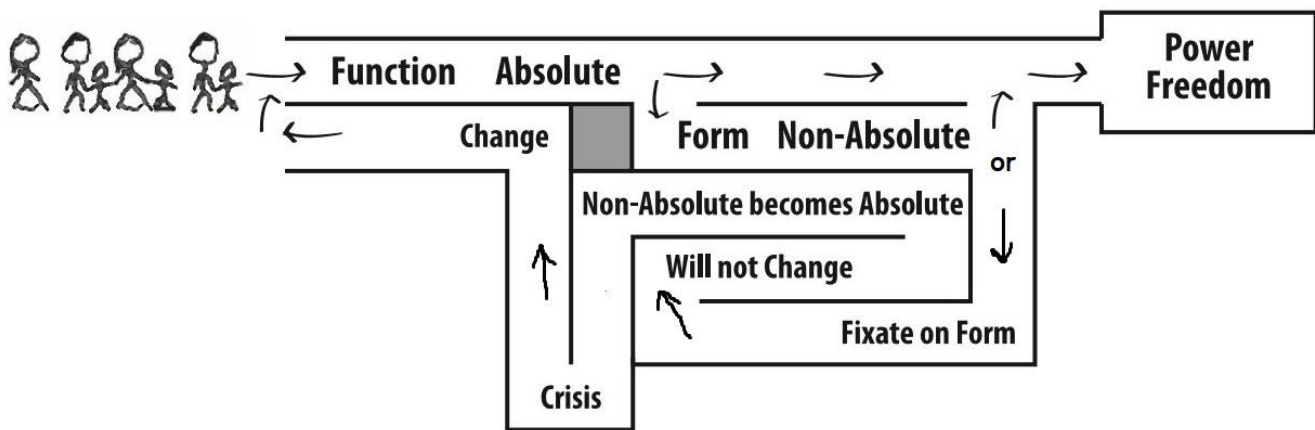
Before we get started on this incredible, exciting and challenging journey of the Holy Spirit working through His Church, let us explain how you can discern in the Book of Acts between absolute principles and non-absolute forms by reading and completing Project C on the next page.

# Project C

## Discerning Absolutes from Non-Absolutes

As we travel through the book of Acts, we want to bridge the “then” with the “now” by developing consistent supra-cultural (can apply to any culture) and timeless (can apply at any time) principles used throughout the Book of Acts with today’s Church here and now. These principles can be defined as absolute principles or **functions** that never change with culture or time. The opposite of these absolutes are non-absolutes which are **forms** that can change with culture and time. It is with these absolute principles that we want to bridge the “then” in Acts with the “now” of today’s Church. See the bridge diagram on page 42.

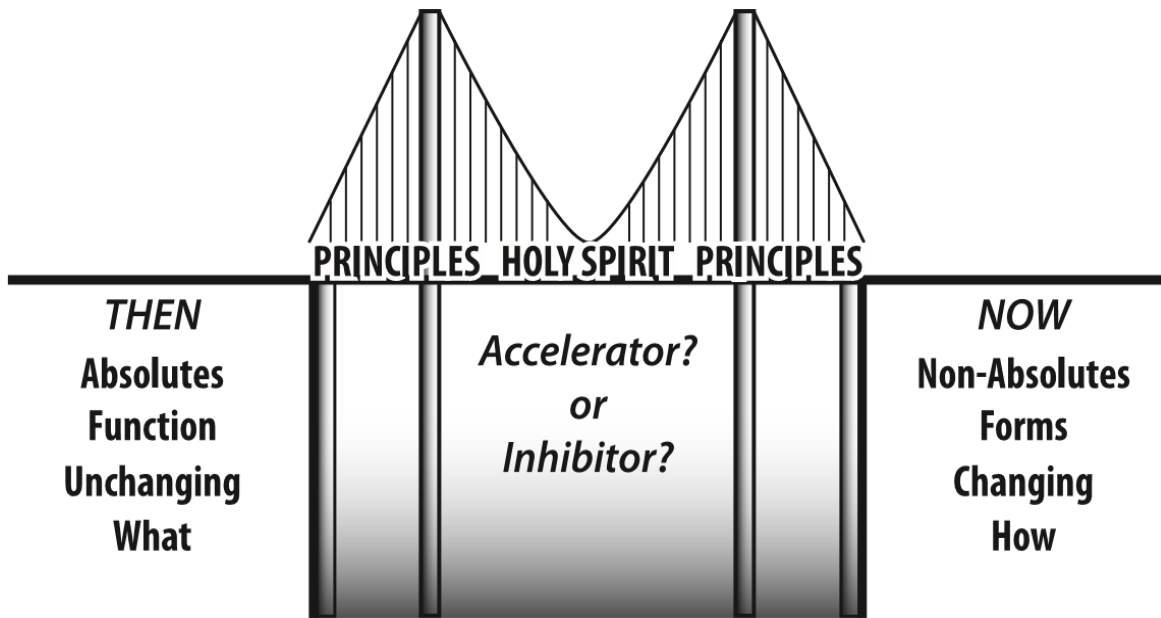
The diagram below will help us determine the difference between absolutes and non-absolutes. We can also see how people naturally fixate on forms, finding it very difficult to change without a crisis. When we are locked into a form (non-absolute) and refuse to change, it can cause the function (absolute) to die - in other words, having a form without the power of the Holy Spirit. Working and discussing the chart below with others will help you glean those absolutes from Scripture and bridge today’s Church with those powerful biblical principles found in Acts.



Read Hebrews 10:24-25 and contrast absolutes (functions) with non-absolutes (forms). For example, is “meeting together” an absolute or non-absolute? Yes, it is an absolute, but how we meet, where we meet, and when we meet, are non-absolutes. Let me ask you: is a church building an absolute or non-absolute? Is “encouraging one another” an absolute or non-absolute? In the following chart, place these items in the appropriate box and discuss with others. You can do this with the Sabbath, evangelism, prayer, baptism, a pulpit, tracts, different types of music, communion, serving and loving one another, etc. List as many absolute functions and non-absolute forms as you can in the columns and discuss them with others. Be careful that non-absolutes (forms) do not become absolutes, because if they do, you will lose your freedom, joy, and power. On the following chart, I have done the first two for you as an example.







*God's Plan for His Church Unfolds*

**Lesson 1**

**Expanding Churches: Jerusalem - Acts 1:1 - 6:7**

This is the first of six divisions in the book of Acts. In this first division, the Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples at Pentecost giving birth to the Church. This ignites a fire beginning in Jerusalem and spreading to Judea, Samaria and to the end of the earth. This first division involves primarily Jews.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following Scripture in Acts 1:1-6:7 and write down the key principles that were useful in the expansion of the Church from Jerusalem.

Acts 1:1-11 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 1:12-14 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 1:15-26 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2:1-13 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2:14-41 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2:42-47 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 3:1-10 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 3:11-26 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 4:1-22 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 4:23-31 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 4:32-37 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 5:1-11 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 5:12-16 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 5:17-42 \_\_\_\_\_

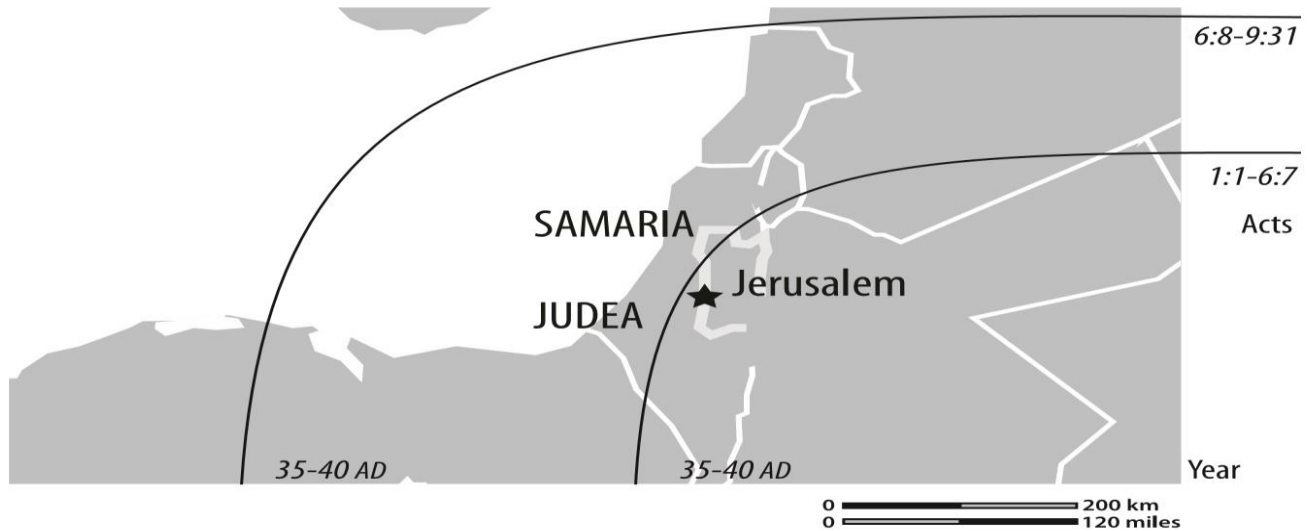
Acts 6:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 1				
	KEY PRINCIPLES	CONTRAST	CHANGES	APPLICATION
1	From your observations, list ten key principles used in the Early Church. Note chapter and verse.	Discuss the contrasts and the comparisons of these key principles with today's church.	Discuss the changes you would like to see made in your life, family and today's church.	How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?
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## Lesson 2

### Expanding Churches: Judea and Samaria - Acts 6:8 - 9:31

This is the second of six divisions in the book of Acts. The Holy Spirit having come upon the disciples in Jerusalem results in the persecution of the newly born Church. The persecution scatters the Church to Samaria. Now the Jewish Church is becoming mixed with Gentiles.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following Scripture in **Acts 6:8 - 9:31**, and write down all the key principles that were useful in the expansion of the Church into Judea and Samaria.

**Acts 6:8-15** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 7:1-60** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 8:1-40** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 9:1-19** \_\_\_\_\_

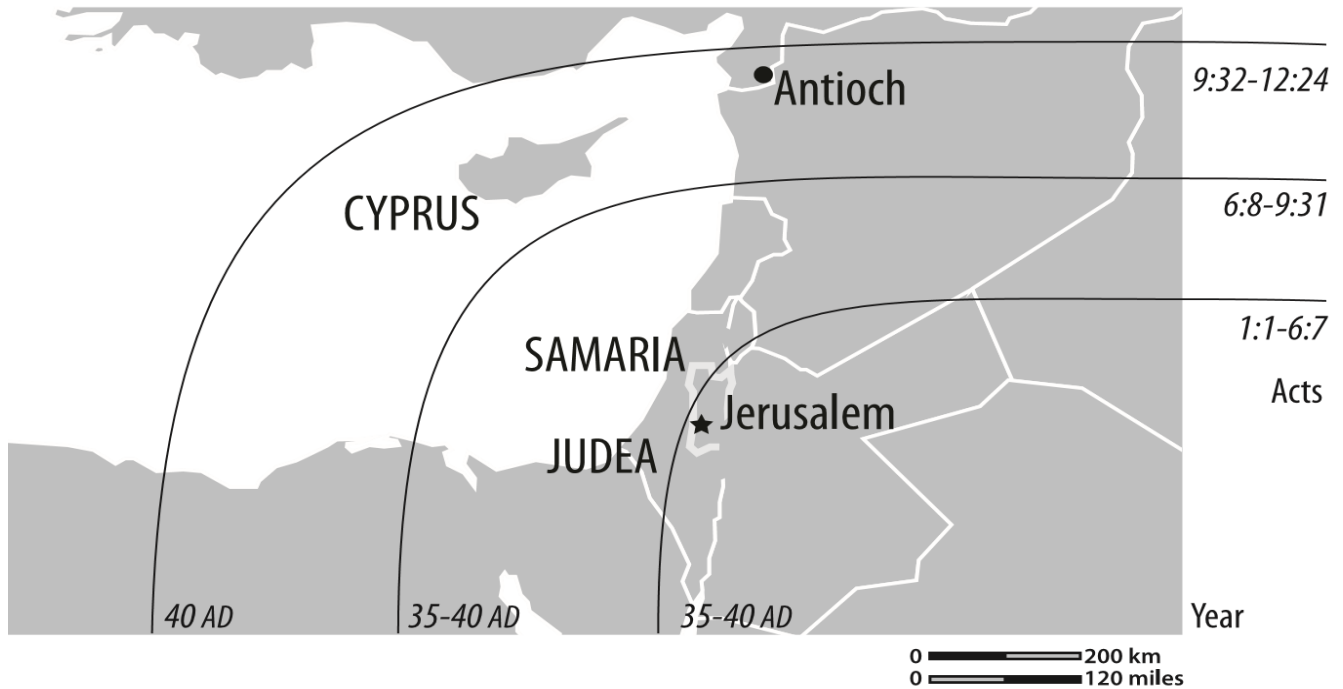
**Acts 9:20-31** \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 2				
	<b>KEY PRINCIPLES</b>	<b>CONTRAST</b>	<b>CHANGES</b>	<b>APPLICATION</b>
1	From your observations, list ten key principles used in the Early Church. Note chapter and verse.	Discuss the contrasts and the comparisons of these key principles with today's church.	Discuss the changes you would like to see made in your life, family and today's church.	How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?
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### Lesson 3

## Expanding Churches: Antioch - Acts 9:32 - 12:24

This is the third of six divisions in the book of Acts. Persecution leads the Church to expand to Antioch. The key leadership and work of the Holy Spirit shifts from Peter and the Jews, to Paul and the Gentiles. The Word continues to spread and multiply.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following Scripture in **Acts 9:32 - 12:24**, and write down all the key principles that were useful in the expansion of the Church into Antioch.

**Acts 9:32-35** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 9:36-43** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 10:1-8** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 10:9-16

Acts 10:17-23

Acts 10:24-33

Acts 10:34-43

Acts 10:44-48

Acts 11:1-9

Acts 11:10-18

Acts 11:19-26

Acts 11:27-30

Acts 12:1-5

Acts 12:6-19

Acts 12:20-24



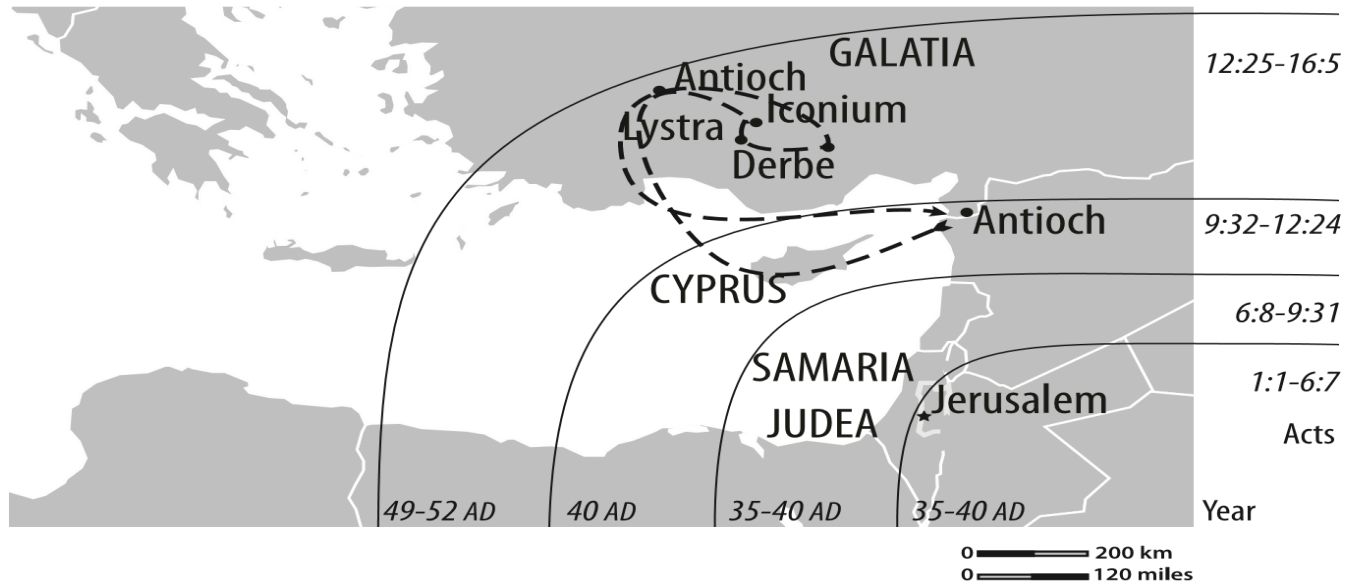
	KEY PRINCIPLES	CONTRAST	CHANGES	APPLICATION
Lesson 3	From your observations, list ten key principles used in the Early Church. Note chapter and verse.	Discuss the contrasts and the comparisons of these key principles with today's church.	Discuss the changes you would like to see made in your life, family and today's church.	How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?
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God's Plan for His Church Unfolds

Lesson 4

# Expanding Churches: Asia Minor - Acts 12:25 - 16:5

Now we see the establishment of the Antioch church which becomes a launching pad for the gospel to the ends of the earth. The Holy Spirit sends out two key men, Paul and Barnabas to Asia Minor. The church is strengthened in faith and increases in numbers daily.



➔ Denotes Paul's First Missionary Journey Acts 13:4-14:28

**Observation:** Read and observe the following Scripture in Acts 12:25 - 16:5, and write down all the key principles that were useful in the expansion of the church into Asia Minor.

**Acts 12:25 - 13:3** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 13:4-12** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 13:13-25** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 13:26-34** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 13:35-41

Acts 13:42-52

Acts 14:1-7

Acts 14:8-18

Acts 14:19-23

Acts 14:24-28

Acts 15:1-11

Acts 15:12-21

Acts 15:22-35

Acts 15:36-41

Acts 16:1-5

Lesson 4		KEY PRINCIPLES	CONTRAST	CHANGES	APPLICATION
1	From your observations, list ten key principles used in the Early Church. Note chapter and verse.	Discuss the contrasts and the comparisons of these key principles with today's church.	Discuss the changes you would like to see made in your life, family and today's church.	How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?	
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God's Plan for His Church Unfolds

Lesson 5

Expanding Churches: Aegean Area - Acts 16:6 - 19:20

Now we see the establishment of the church on the Aegean shores. The Holy Spirit is clearly directing the Apostles to preach the gospel, to strengthen the disciples and appoint elders in every church. The Word of God continues to increase and prevail mightily.



➔ Paul's Second Missionary Journey Acts 15:39-18:22

**Observation:** Read and observe the following Scripture in Acts 16:6 - 19:20, and write down all the key principles that were useful in the expansion of the church into the Aegean area.

**Acts 16:6-10** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 16:11-15** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 16:16-24** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 16:25-35** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 16:36-40

Acts 17:1-9

Acts 17:10-15

Acts 17:16-21

Acts 17:22-31

Acts 17:32-34

Acts 18:1-17

Acts 18:18-23

Acts 18:24-28

Acts 19:1-10

Acts 19:11-20

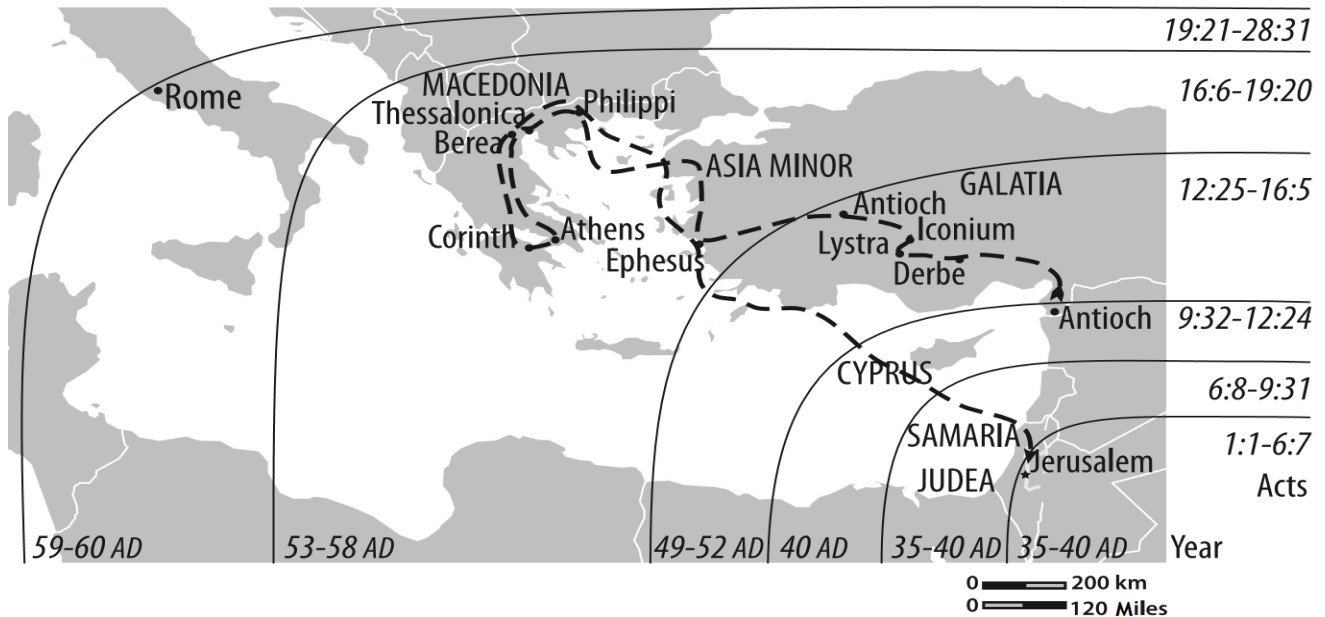
	KEY PRINCIPLES	CONTRAST	CHANGES	APPLICATION
Lesson 5	From your observations, list ten key principles used in the Early Church. Note chapter and verse.	Discuss the contrasts and the comparisons of these key principles with today's church.	Discuss the changes you would like to see made in your life, family and today's church.	How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?
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God's Plan for His Church Unfolds

Lesson 6

Expanding Churches: Roman Empire - Acts 19:21 - 28:31

Paul plans to visit Rome, but how he gets there is an unforeseen journey. After leaving the elders in Ephesus, Paul goes to Jerusalem, where after his arrest, he appeals to Caesar which takes him to Rome. There he preaches the Gospel with all boldness and without hindrance.



➔ Paul's Third Missionary Journey Acts 18:23-21:17

**Observation:** Read and observe the following Scripture in Acts 19:21 - 28:31, and write down all the key principles that were useful in the expansion of the church into the Roman Empire.

**Acts 19:21-41** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 20:1-16** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 20:17-38** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 21:1-16** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Acts 21:17-26

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Acts 21:27-36

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Acts 21:37 - 22:21

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Acts 22:22-29

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Acts 22:30 - 23:11

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Acts 23:12-22

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Acts 23:23-35

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Acts 24:1-21

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Acts 24:22 - 25:27

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Acts 26:1-11

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Acts 26:12-32

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Acts 27:1 - 28:10

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Acts 28:11-31

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Lesson 6				
	<b>KEY PRINCIPLES</b>	<b>CONTRAST</b>	<b>CHANGES</b>	<b>APPLICATION</b>
1	From your observations, list ten key principles used in the Early Church. Note chapter and verse.	Discuss the contrasts and the comparisons of these key principles with today's church.	Discuss the changes you would like to see made in your life, family and today's church.	How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?
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*God's Plan for His Church Unfolds*

## Lesson 7

### Expanding Churches: Jerusalem to Ends of the Earth - Acts

You have just embarked on an incredible journey like no other in all of history. Obviously, what made the difference in this journey was the coming and empowering of the Holy Spirit. For this lesson, go back and select one key principle from each of the 6 lessons. Be sure that each principle you select is unique to that particular lesson in the Book of Acts and that each key will fit into any culture (supra-cultural) at any time (timeless).

**Lesson 1 - Acts 1:1 - 6:7** Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss why you selected this key principle? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson 2 - Acts 6:8 - 9:31** Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss why you selected this key principle? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson 3 - Acts 9:32-12:24** Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss why you selected this key principle? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson 4 - Acts 12:25-16:5** Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss why you selected this key principle? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Lesson 5 - Acts 16:6-19:20** Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss why you selected this key principle? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson 6 - Acts 19:21-28:31** Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss why you selected this key principle? \_\_\_\_\_

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*God's Plan for His Church Unfolds*

**Lesson 8**

**Paul's Missionary Strategy**

Paul was a master church builder who founded thriving and growing churches in main centers of population. These churches had the responsibility of establishing other churches in their surrounding areas and beyond. As we discussed previously, Paul overcame three hindrances that are evident in church expansion today. He established indigenous and self-sustaining churches that were capable of multiplying by themselves.

**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down the key elements or principles of Paul's missionary strategy from the Word of God.

**Matthew 16:18** \_\_\_\_\_

**Matthew 28:19-20** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 1:8** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 2:1-4** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 2:42-47** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 11:22-26** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 13:1-4** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 14:7** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 14:21** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 14:22** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 14:23-27** \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 15:19-20** \_\_\_\_\_

# Our Example: The Antioch Church

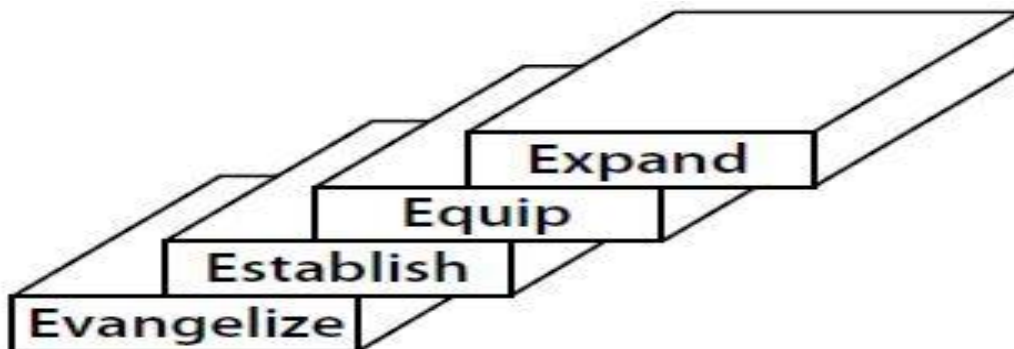
*To form a biblical picture of an established church you can examine the Church as it expanded to Antioch and beyond. It developed through these four basic stages:*

1. **Building** a community base (Jerusalem)—Acts 2:38-47
2. **Overseeing** expansion of the gospel from Jews to Gentiles (Jerusalem to Antioch) Acts 3-12
3. **Establishing** churches (Antioch)—Acts 11:19-26
4. **Sending** out proven leaders (Antioch to the World)—Acts 13:1-3

## ***Paul’s plan had four basic stages***

1. **Evangelizing** - getting the message to strategic cities—Romans 15:14-21
  - a. Phase One: Gathering a base of disciples - Acts 11:19-21
  - b. Phase Two: Expose the life of Christ to the community—Acts 11:26
2. **Establishing** - by forming these communities of disciples into churches—Acts 14:22
3. **Equipping** - by appointing elders to teach and equip the disciples—Acts 14:23
4. **Expanding** - by listening to the Holy Spirit in the sending process - Acts 13:1-3; by identifying and equipping emerging leaders called apostles or church planters—Acts 16:1-5; by passing the care of the church on to elders—Acts 20:17-28; and by leaving them instructions for establishing and training faithful men – 2 Timothy 2:2.

*Now you can start to visualize church development in four basic stages and you can see how they build upon one another:*



*You could summarize the Definition of Church Planting and Renewal as:*

**“The main purpose of church planting is to plant new churches where none exist and to strengthen or renew existing churches where they do exist.”**

*God's Plan for His Church Unfolds*

**Lesson 9**

**Antioch Church Model**

After observing so much Scripture, we begin to see a pattern emerging. The following verses will allow you to visualize established churches which naturally flow from four basic stages of development: expanding, evangelizing, establishing and equipping. You will learn how they build upon one another in a predictable cycle.

**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down the biblical support for the four key elements or principles of **Paul's Missionary Strategy** from the Word of God.

**Expanding**

**Matthew 28:19a** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 11:22-24a** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 13:1-3** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 16:1-4** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 15:19-20** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Evangelizing**

**Matthew 28:19** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 11:19-21** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 13:32-33

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Acts 13:47-49

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Acts 14:5-7

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## **Establishing**

Matthew 28:20

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Acts 11:25-26

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Acts 14:21-22

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Acts 16:4-5

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Acts 18:23

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## **Equipping**

Acts 14:23

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**Acts 20:17-38** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Ephesians 4:11-14** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Titus 1:5-9** \_\_\_\_\_

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**1 Peter 5:1-5** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a brief summary of each of the four key elements or functions of Paul's missionary strategy that you observed from God's Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes)

**Evangelizing** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Establishing** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Equipping** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Expanding** \_\_\_\_\_

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# God's Pattern Revealed

*After observing Scripture, do you see a pattern emerging?*

*As with many things, there is a predictable cycle that shows how a healthy church develops:*

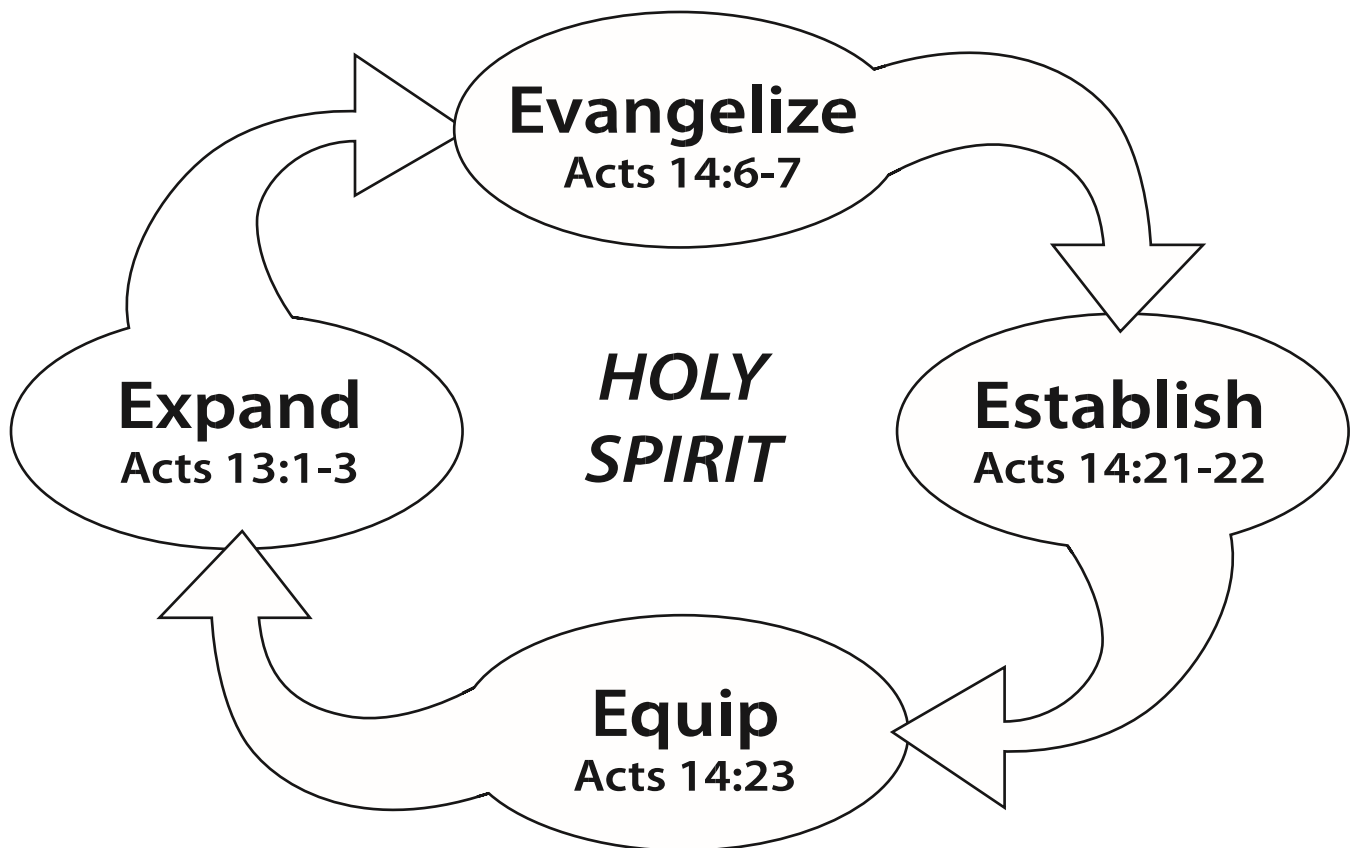
**Evangelize:** This is the process used to get the gospel to the people most effectively.

**Establish:** This is the process that brings the new believers to a sure or firm foundation in the faith and the gospel of grace.

**Equip:** This is the process of appointing elders who spiritually feed, lead and oversee the flock, the church.

**Expand:** This is natural development of an established church which reaches out further into the community with the gospel and beyond. This growth is measured by the **church's ability to release, not retain disciples.** This cycle is seen over and over in the Book of Acts.

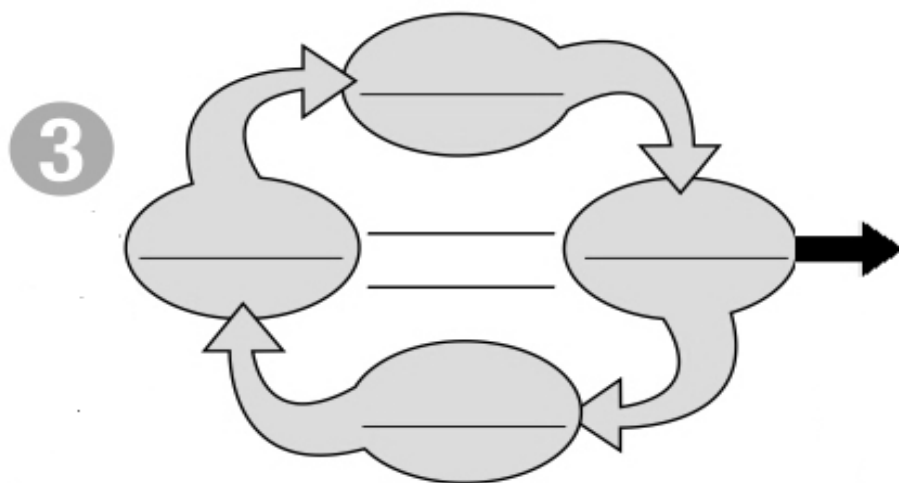
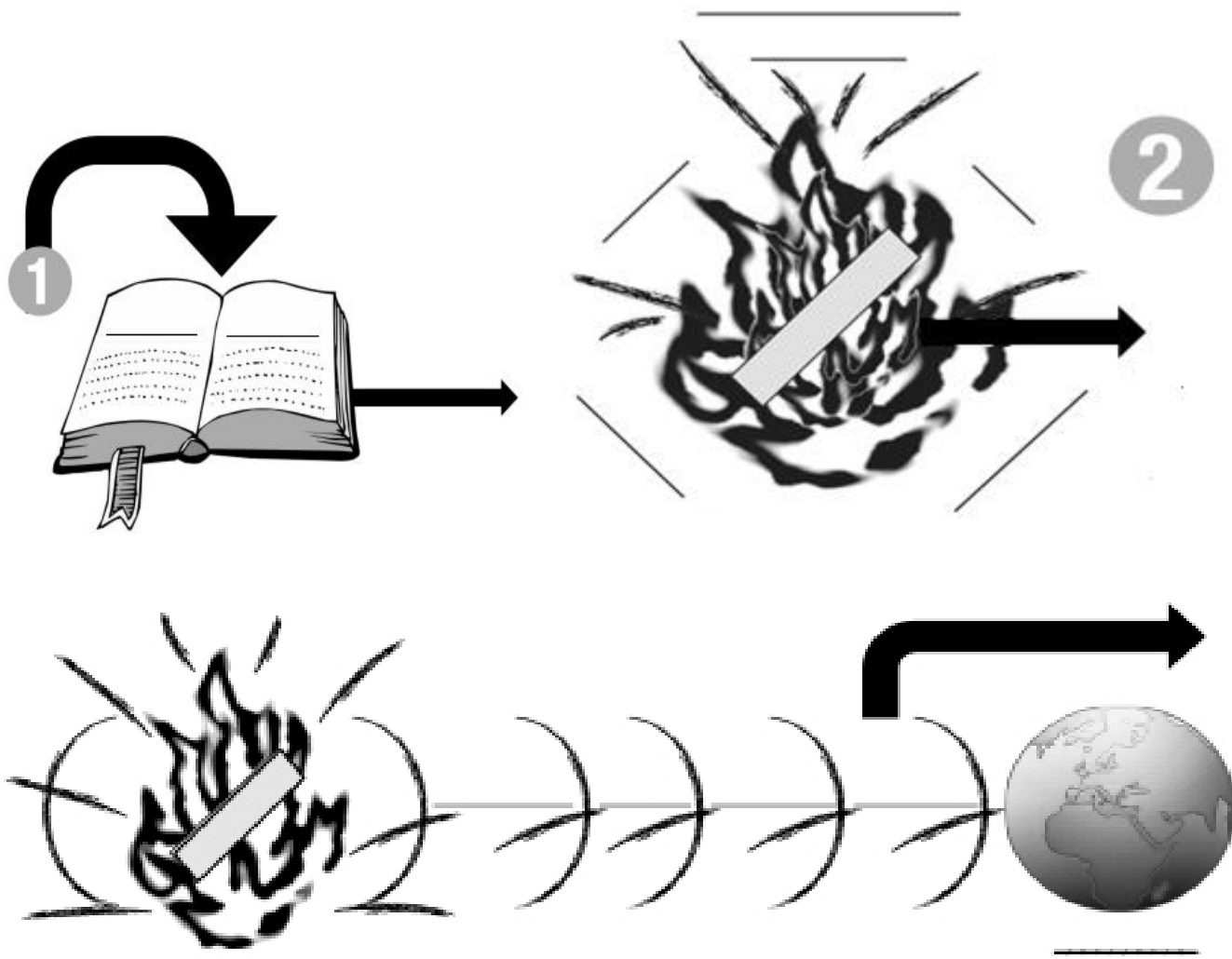
*These processes flow in succession like this:*







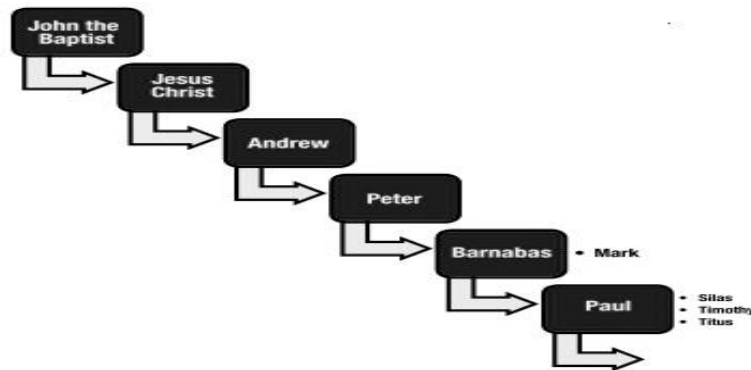
Review Chapter 1, 2 and 3 before going on to Chapter 4 by filling in the blanks without looking back:



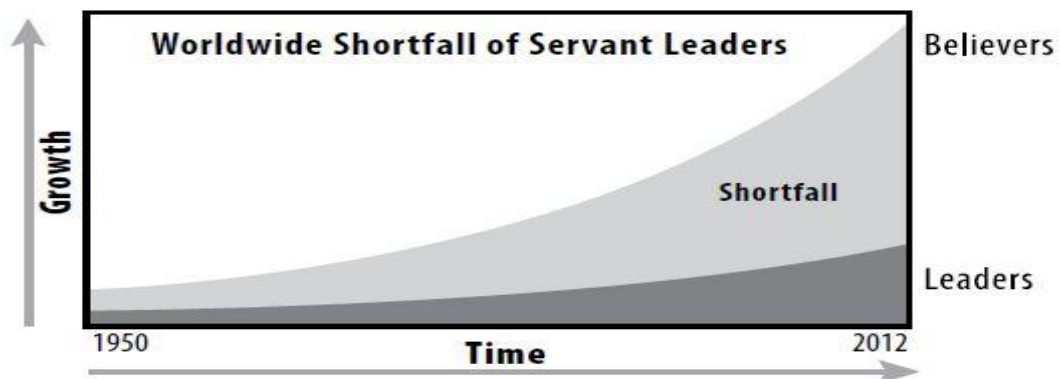
# Chapter 4

## *Our Challenge*

# Develop Faithful Leaders in The Church



Obviously, some leaders today view the Western model of training disciples and leaders superior to how Jesus and the Early Church trained disciples! If that was not the case, there would be an urgent desire to return to the way of Christ and the Apostles. Do you know of anyone today making the progress and impact that those early disciples made, including the Apostle Paul, who completed all 3 of his missionary journeys in just 10 years? That was without all the sophisticated training, travel and technology that we have today! Looking at the expansion of the Early Church and the life of the early disciples and apostles, and the impact they had on their world, we must conclude we are not doing a better job of training today. Something is missing in the methods we are using. To understand the leadership deficiency in the Church today, let's look at the following chart and then discuss the questions on page 70 (Mentor Link International, used by permission).



**Discussion Questions:** Why does the growth of leadership not keep pace with church growth?

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How can we eliminate or reduce this shortfall of biblical leaders in the world today?

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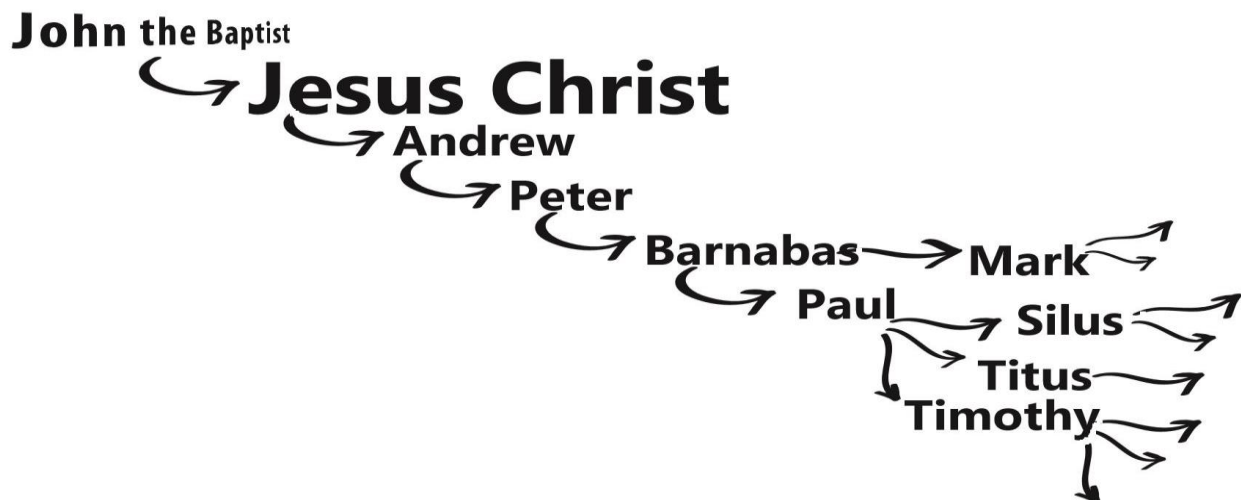
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In the Early Church, leadership development and multiplication were essential to the tremendous progress and impact it had on the world. Therefore, let us travel back and observe those early disciples who turned their world upside down for Christ. Let us start with the prophet who paved the way for Jesus; do you know his name? \_\_\_\_\_. He sets forth a very important key principle that undergirds the type of servant leadership expressed in the Early Church which we so desperately need today. John’s supra-cultural and timeless leadership principle was that Jesus must always increase and John (we) must always decrease (John 3:30). After that, who was the first disciple Jesus called? \_\_\_\_\_. Then he went and got his brother Peter, and the twelve disciples were called and chosen to be “with” Jesus so He could send them out (Mark 3:14).

When the Early Church in Jerusalem looked for a key man to send to Antioch, they selected a man full of faith and of the Spirit, by the name of Barnabas, who most likely trained under Peter. It is through Barnabas, joined by the Apostle Paul from Tarsus, who strengthens or establishes the Antioch church, which becomes a launching pad to take the gospel to the world.

Starting with Jesus’ call to Andrew, we will follow the thread of leadership through Peter and Barnabas that connected or held together the expansion of the Early Church from Jerusalem to the world. We will see how church leaders like apostles and elders emerged from the church or family of God for the next generation (2 Timothy 2:2). Observe this African Proverb: “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” Study the following flow diagram:



Now let's return to the Scriptures in Lessons 10-11 and see how leaders emerged and were developed and sent out in the Early Church. We will see how apostles developed elders and trained other apostles for the next generation.

## Lesson 10

# The Key Role of Apostles in the Early Church

### I. Apostles Emerged in the Early Church - Acts 4:36 - 11:30

**Instructions:** Write your answers to the questions below in the blanks, based on the Bible verses beside the questions.

#### ***Barnabas' character was proven (Acts 4:36-37; 9:26-27)***

1. What can you learn from Barnabas' name? (4:36) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What makes you think Barnabas was devoted to the Lord? (4:37) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What indicates Barnabas was a man under authority? (4:37b) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why would Barnabas make a good partner in the ministry? (9:26-27) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### ***Barnabas was sent out by the Jerusalem church (Acts 11:19-23)***

5. Why do you think the Jerusalem Church sent Barnabas to Antioch? (11:19-23) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What did Barnabas do when he arrived at Antioch? (11:23b) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### ***Barnabas' qualifications for church planting (Acts 11:24-26)***

7. What kind of man was Barnabas? (11:24) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What was Barnabas full of according to 11:24? \_\_\_\_\_ Why is being full of the Holy Spirit and faith an important qualification for ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Why is the qualification of being filled with the Holy Spirit often neglected today? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Barnabas was a man full of faith. What does being full of faith mean? (11:24) \_\_\_\_\_

11. Who did Barnabas get to help him? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? (11:25, 26) \_\_\_\_\_

12. How long did Barnabas and Paul stay in Antioch? \_\_\_\_\_ What did they do while there? (11:26)

13. What were the disciples first called in Antioch? (11:26b) \_\_\_\_\_ Why do you think they were called Christians? \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:** What seems to be the most important aspect of Barnabas' life that made him qualified to be sent by the Jerusalem church to Antioch? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is education often thought to be more important than character and being filled with the Holy Spirit and faith? \_\_\_\_\_

**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a brief summary of the key principles and functions that were useful in apostles being developed in the Early Church. \_\_\_\_\_



## II. Apostles were sent out by the Early Church - Acts 13:1-14:27

### *Apostles were developed and trained to be sent out (Acts 13:1-4)*

1. Who were the leaders, prophets and teachers in the Antioch church? (13:1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Where do you think these leaders were trained? (13:1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who do you think were the two key leaders in this group of men? (13:1-2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What were they doing when the Holy Spirit spoke to them? (13:2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Who sent Barnabas and Paul out? (13:2-4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Who else was involved in this sending process? (13:1-4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Describe the complete procedure of this sending process. (13:1-4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### *Apostles had a strategy (Acts 14:21-27)*

8. What was the first thing these apostles did when they arrived at a city? (13:32, 38; 14:6-7, 15, 21a) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What was the result of the apostles preaching the gospel? (14:21b) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why did the apostles return to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch of Pisidia? (14:22) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Who did the apostles appoint in every church? (14:23) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12. How did they appoint the elders? (14:23) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

13. Who did the apostles commit them to? (14:23b) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

14) Where did the apostles return to when they completed their missionary trip? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? (14:26-27) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a brief summary of the key principles and functions that were useful in apostles being developed in the Early Church. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Application:** How and when will you make changes that reflect these principles?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### III. Apostles Developed Elders in the Early Church - Acts 20:17-38

#### *Paul's training strategy for elders (Acts 20:17-26)*

1. Where did Paul live in Ephesus? (20:18) \_\_\_\_\_
2. How did Paul serve the Ephesians? (20:19) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What did Paul preach to them? (20:20) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where did Paul teach them? (20:20) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did Paul testify to? (20:21) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What did Paul not value? \_\_\_\_\_ Why did he not value his own life? (20:24)  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What was the purpose of Paul's ministry? (20:24) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### *Paul's teaching to the elders (Acts 20:27-32)*

8. What did Paul proclaim to them? (20:27) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Who did Paul tell them to pay careful attention to first? (20:28) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What was the Church purchased with? (20:28b). \_\_\_\_\_  
Therefore, who owns the Church? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Who would come into the Church after Paul departed? (20:29) \_\_\_\_\_
12. What would they do to the Church? (20:30) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Where would these fierce wolves come from? (20:30) \_\_\_\_\_
14. What warning did Paul give these elders? (20:31) \_\_\_\_\_
15. How did Paul warn them? (20:31) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. To whom and what did Paul entrust or commend them to? (20:32) \_\_\_\_\_

***Paul's model for the elders (Acts 20:33-35)***

17. What did Paul not covet? (20:33, 34) \_\_\_\_\_

18. Why do you suppose that Paul worked? (20:34) \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** See supplement Church Planters Financial Support, page 209.

19. What did Paul show them by working and Why? (20:35) \_\_\_\_\_

***Paul's relationship with the elders (Acts 20:36-38)***

20. What did Paul do with the elders when he was leaving them? (20:36) \_\_\_\_\_

21. Describe Paul's relationship with the elders. (20:37-38) \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:** How many years did Paul stay with the Ephesian church? \_\_\_\_\_ Since there were no training institutions, how did Paul train the pastors/elders in Ephesus and the Early Churches? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is institutional and positional training sometimes thought to be more acceptable and desired today than relational and personal training within the Church family?

## IV. Apostles Developed Other Apostles - Acts 16:1-20:31; 1 Timothy; 2 Timothy; Titus

Note: See supplement Church Planters Ministry Described Biblically, page 205.

### *Paul selected apostles who were tested and trained in the church (Acts 16:2-5)*

1. What was the name of the disciple Paul met when he came to Lystra? (16:1) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where did Timothy's faith first live? (2 Timothy 1:5) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why do you think Paul chose Timothy? (Acts 16:2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What did Paul want to do with Timothy? (16:3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How did Paul train Timothy? (16:3-4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What was the result of this training process? (16:5) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### *Paul built teams of people to assist him (Acts 18:24-28; 20:4)*

7. Who were some of Paul's helpers? (18:24-28; 20:4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How were they trained in sound doctrine? (18:24-26) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Describe their effectiveness in the ministry of the Word. (18:27-28) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What is the difference between training for the ministry and training in the ministry?  
(Acts 20:4, 18, 31) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. How did Jesus develop or train His disciples to be sent out? (Mark 3:14) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Paul's instructions emphasized Timothy and Titus' character (I & II Timothy and Titus)***

12. For example, quickly review (I & II Timothy and Titus) and list some of the words that Paul uses to describe a leader's character. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. Go back and look at Barnabas' character (Section I, page 71), and list as many character traits as you can about Barnabas. You will be amazed the Bible has so much to say about him! \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Paul used apostles to establish existing churches (Titus)***

14. Why did Paul leave Titus in Crete? (1:5) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

15. What does it mean to "set in order"? (1:5-9) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. What did Paul tell Titus to teach? (2:1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

17. Describe what Paul meant by "sound doctrine" or teaching. (2:2ff) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:** Why is character so important in the leaders' ministry according to II Timothy 2:20-22? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why does today's Church often place more emphasis on education and status than on character? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## V. Apostles Trained for the Next Generation (2 Timothy)

### *Training faithful men (2 Timothy 2:2)*

1. What types of men were entrusted with Paul's teaching? (2:2) \_\_\_\_\_

2. What should they be able to do? (2:2) \_\_\_\_\_

Why is it important that they be able to teach others? \_\_\_\_\_

### *Timothy's charge (2 Timothy 4:1-5)*

3. What did Paul charge Timothy to do? (4:1-2) \_\_\_\_\_

Why is this charge so important? (4:3-5) \_\_\_\_\_

### *Paul's farewell (2 Timothy 4:6-18)*

4. What was Paul's perspective on his past life? (4:6-7) \_\_\_\_\_

5. What was Paul's perspective on his future life? (4:8) \_\_\_\_\_

6. What happened to Demas, Paul's disciple? (4:9-10) \_\_\_\_\_

7. After what happened in Acts 15:37-40, why would Paul now want Mark? (4:11) \_\_\_\_\_

8. How did Paul handle Alexander? (4:14-15) \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:** Why is it so important that we train faithful leaders who will train other faithful leaders? \_\_\_\_\_

**Application:** Are you training a faithful disciple who will be able to train others? If not, why not, and will you commit to pray and look for a Timothy you can train? \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 11

# God Calls Key Leaders

### I. God Chooses Unlikely Leaders

God does not call and choose His leaders based on the world's standards or criteria. Interestingly, when Jesus chose the Twelve Disciples for His Father's very important task, He chose no one from the "religious establishment". To be sure, throughout the Bible, God's way of choosing leadership is much different than the ways of man and the world.

1. What type of brothers did God not call according to 1 Corinthians 1:26? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who did God choose according to 1 Corinthians 1:27-28? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why does God call and choose this type of person according to 1 Corinthians 1:29? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What was Gideon doing when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in Judges 6:11? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How did Gideon respond to God's call according to Judges 6:15? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How did God respond to Gideon according to Judges 6:16? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why were just 32,000 men too many to fight thousands and thousands of Midianites  
\_\_\_\_\_ according to Judges 7:2?
8. How many men did God finally leave Gideon to fight with according to Judges 7:7?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What were some of the excuses Moses used in response to God's calling according to Exodus 3:11; 4:1, 10, 13? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



10. How did God respond to Moses according to Exodus 3:12; 4:11, 12? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Why did God choose David, who was just a shepherd boy and not the first-born son of Jesse, according to 1 Samuel 16:6-13? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. What is the difference in how God chooses and how the world chooses (1 Samuel 16:7)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. How did the elders, scribes, and the high priest perceive Peter and John in Acts 4:13?  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. What did they recognize (realize) about Peter and John in Acts 4:13? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:** Do you think God still chooses “unlikely leaders” today? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think God chooses the foolish, the weak, the low and despised? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Application:** Why do you think God chose you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How are you fulfilling your chosen purpose? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## II. God Tests Powerful Leaders

Throughout Scripture we see leaders powerfully used by God, who were first tested and proven. Activity and knowledge are no substitute for being tested for usefulness, purity and power. We are to rejoice in our tests and weakness so that we will experience even greater power, purity and usefulness for God's glory.

1. What came to rest on Jesus after His baptism according to Matthew 3:16? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Where did the Holy Spirit immediately lead Jesus after His baptism (Matthew 4:1)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

3. After Jesus passed this time of testing in the wilderness, what did He begin to do according to Matthew 4:17? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Moses lived a total of 120 years. After his first 40 years of growing up in Egypt, who did Moses become according to Exodus 2:10? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Where did Moses spend his next 40 years according to Exodus 2:15? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What did he do while in the desert land according to Exodus 3:1? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Having passed his "desert test," how did Moses spend his final 40 years (Exodus 3:10ff)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What did Peter say after Jesus declared they would all "fall away" (Mark 14:26-31)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. What happened when Peter failed his test according to Mark 14:72? \_\_\_\_\_

10. What resulted from Peter enduring his test according to Acts 2:38-41? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. How did the Thessalonians receive the Word according to 1 Thessalonians 1:6? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. What was the result of their testing or affliction according to 1 Thessalonians 1:7-8?

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13. Why was Paul tested according to 2 Corinthians 12:7? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. Describe Paul's "thorn" that was given to him. (2 Corinthians 12:7) \_\_\_\_\_

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15. Instead of removing the "thorn," what did the Lord give to Paul (2 Corinthians 12:9)?

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16. What makes God's power perfect in the believer (2 Corinthians 12:9)? \_\_\_\_\_

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17. Therefore, why did Paul boast about his weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9)? \_\_\_\_\_

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18. So, what were some things that Paul was content with and even delighted in according to 2 Corinthians 12:10? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Discussion:** Why do you think God tests His servant leaders? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Application:** Have you ever been tested? \_\_\_\_\_ Did it help prepare you for ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

How did it prepare you? \_\_\_\_\_

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### III. God Prepares Effective Leaders

Paul surrounded himself with key people who contributed to his success in taking the gospel to the Gentiles. Every person God brought into Paul's life was useful and strategic in shaping this master church planter and leader of God. You too will need these people in your life to shape your church planting or church renewal success.

1. How do you think God used Stephen's testimony of forgiveness in Paul's conversion according to Acts 7:58-60? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What role do you think Barnabas played in Paul's life according to Acts 9:26-27; 11:25-26?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What was Timothy's involvement and role in Paul's life according to 2 Timothy 2:2?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What role did Mark play in Paul's life and ministry according to 2 Timothy 4:11? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. How do you suppose Mark became very useful to Paul since they had once been separated?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. We know that Luke wrote the Book of Acts, but what other reason do you think Paul had Luke with him according to 2 Timothy 4:11? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. How did Titus help Paul according to 2 Timothy 4:10 and Titus 1:5? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. In 2 Timothy 4:10, why would Paul mention Demas in his final words to Timothy?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever had one of your disciples leave and go back into the world? \_\_\_\_\_

How did that make you feel? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Even more amazing, in 2 Timothy 4:14-15, why do you think Paul mentions Alexander?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever had an Alexander in your life and ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

How did Paul deal with Alexander? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Almost everyone deserted Paul (2 Timothy 1:15; 4:16), but who stood by him according to 2 Timothy 4:17-18? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Who did Paul want to receive honor, credit and attention for his life and ministry (4:18b)? \_\_\_\_\_

**Application:** Do you have a **Barnabas** in your life? \_\_\_\_\_ Why do you need an Encourager in your life (Acts 4:36; 9:27)? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a **Paul** in your life? \_\_\_\_\_ Why do you need someone more mature like Paul in your life? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a **Timothy** in your life? \_\_\_\_\_ Why do you need a disciple or a Timothy in your life? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a **Mark** in your life? \_\_\_\_\_ How can you get a Mark useful again in your life? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever had a **Demas** in your life? \_\_\_\_\_ What can you learn from having a disciple fall away? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever experienced an **Alexander** in your life? \_\_\_\_\_ What can you learn from Paul in dealing with people who want to harm you (2 Timothy 4:14)? \_\_\_\_\_

Even if everyone forsakes you, who can you trust to always be by your side and rescue you and bring you safely home? \_\_\_\_\_ Read 2 Timothy 4:17-18 again, and again.

## IV. God Uses Servant Leaders

Servant leadership is a foreign concept in the church today. It is amazing how the Church, the humblest of all faiths, has in many instances degenerated into a power-hungry and self-seeking organization competing to be bigger and better. Now hear God speak and learn what true biblical leadership means.

1. What key principle did John the Baptist teach us about servant leadership in John 3:30?

\_\_\_\_\_

What would this look like in your life and ministry if practiced today? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What can you learn about servant leadership from Jesus in Matthew 11:28-30? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Who is the greatest and first among Jesus' disciples according to Matthew 20:25-28; Mark 10:35-45; Luke 22:24-27? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

And why did Jesus come (Luke 22:27c)? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who is the greatest among them according to Matthew 23:11-12? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What happens to leaders who exalt themselves (23:12)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. If someone wants to be first, what must he do according to Mark 9:35-37? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What was Jesus' teaching when he received a child in His Name (9:37)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. According to John 13:12-20, why did Jesus wash the disciples' feet? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever experienced a “foot washing” ceremony? \_\_\_\_\_ Why is this not practiced more often in today’s church? \_\_\_\_\_

7. In 1 Thessalonians 2:2-12, describe how Paul lived among them? \_\_\_\_\_

8. According to 1 Corinthians 1:26-2:5, who does God often call? \_\_\_\_\_

Why (1:29)? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Paul decide to know (2:2)? \_\_\_\_\_

How did Paul live among them (2:3-5)? \_\_\_\_\_

9. According to Philippians 2:3-11, how did Paul demonstrate Servant Leadership? \_\_\_\_\_

Whose mind did Paul have (2:5-11)? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the mind of Christ \_\_\_\_\_

10. Who does God oppose according to 1 Peter 5:5-7? \_\_\_\_\_

To whom does God give grace (5:5)? \_\_\_\_\_

Therefore, what should be our response (5:6-7)? \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:** How did the humblest of all faiths, in some situations, degenerate to what it has become today? \_\_\_\_\_

**Application:** What are things you can do today in order to recapture servant leadership in your life and the church? \_\_\_\_\_

Now on the next page, let us consider four of today’s failings in church leadership that might have contributed to the church becoming stagnant and weak in its impact and expansion.

## Project E

# Contrasting Today's Leadership Training with the Early Church

1. In Chapter 1, we concluded that God has given us everything we need to establish churches and strong leaders. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 verifies that Scripture alone is sufficient and can completely equip a man of God (17). How has the Church's failure to recognize and practice the sufficiency of Scripture alone contributed to weak leadership in today's Church? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Many churches today have failed to recognize the family concept and their biblical roles. How have the business and organizational practices of today's Churches contributed to weak leadership? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why is institutional and eloquent educational leadership often more acceptable in today's Church than the Spirit-filled and Godly servant leadership in the Early Church?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

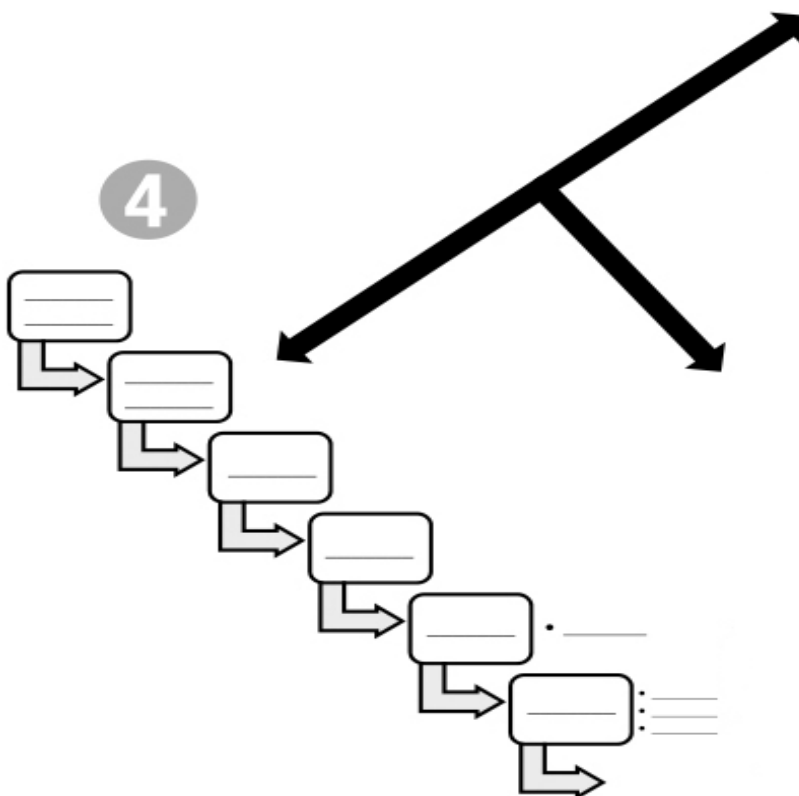
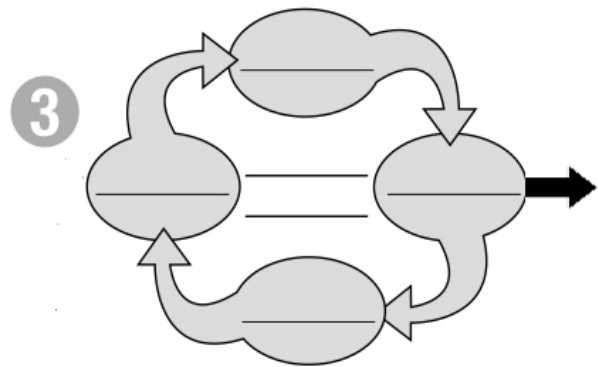
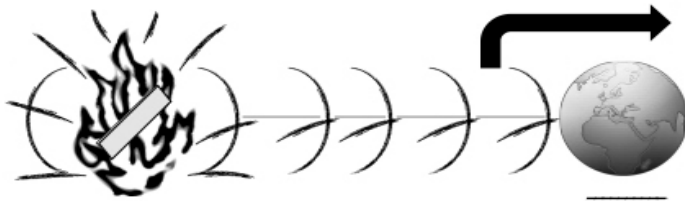
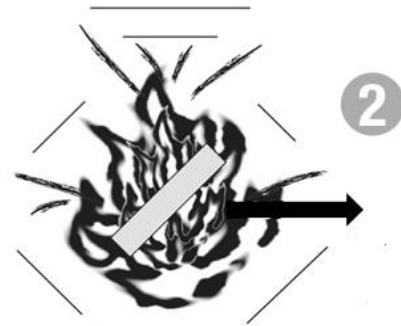
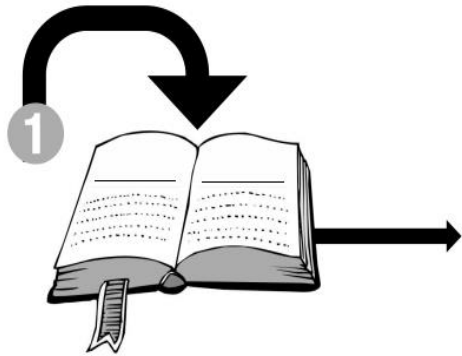
4. Was Jesus' and Paul's strategy to retain or release disciples? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Many churches today desire to retain disciples instead of releasing disciples like Jesus and like they did in the Antioch church. Why do you think retaining disciples is more desired and accepted today? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** A word of caution: when you do things biblically, especially developing servant leadership and releasing those who are trained, you must measure the results biblically. You will be disappointed and discouraged if you measure true biblical leadership development by the world's standards.



**Review Chapter 1, 2, 3, and 4 before going on to chapter 5 by filling in the blanks without looking back. (If you need more room to write, use the blank areas).**



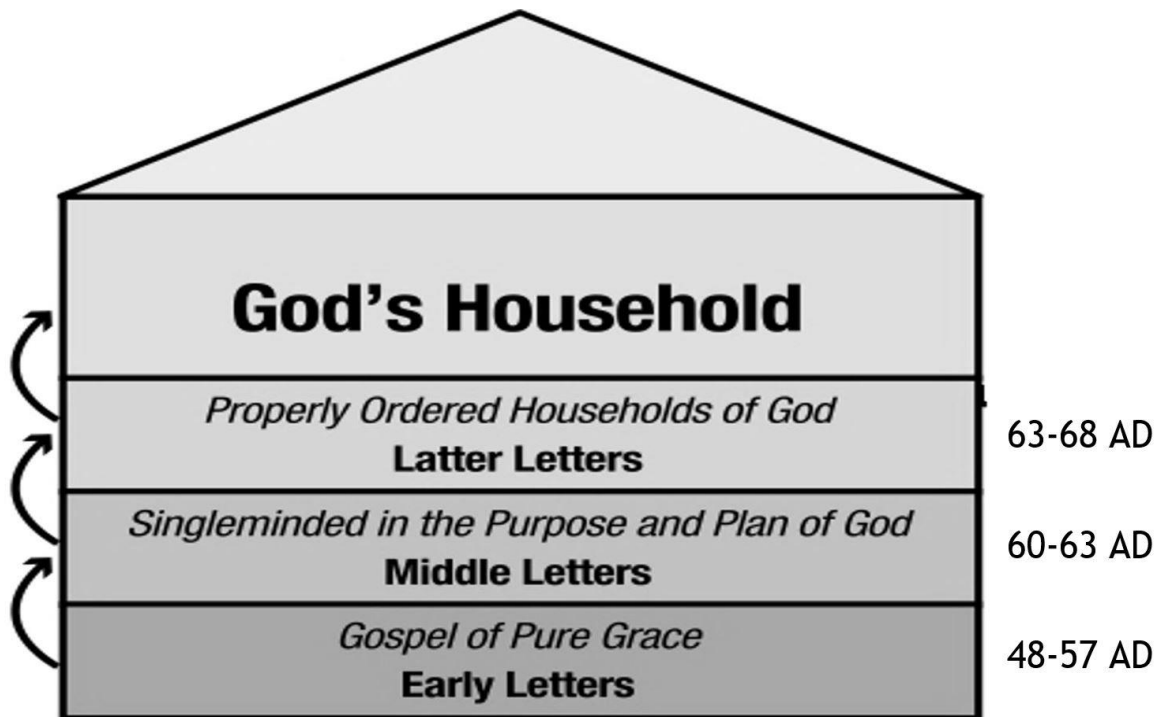


# Chapter 5

## *Our Challenge*

# Develop Strong Churches

### *God's Plan for a Strong Church*



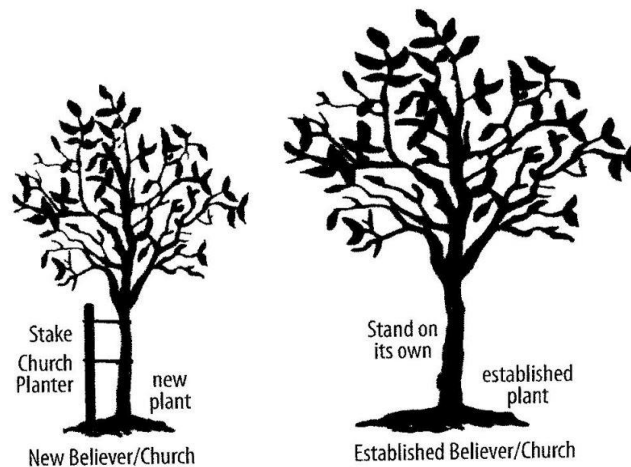
Paul was a master church builder who laid the foundation upon which others built. He was not just concerned with starting new churches but also wanted existing churches to be strong. Look at Paul's Missionary Journeys in the **Supplements** on page 184-185, and see how many times he visited Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe. We know the first time was to preach the gospel, but why did he go back again, again, and again?

Yes, Paul went back to these cities three more times for a total of four times. Once he went to preach the gospel and three times to strengthen and establish the disciples and churches. Paul's concerns for strengthening churches was also evidenced by Luke's and Paul's use of the word *strengthen* or *establish* in the following Scriptures:

By Luke: Acts 14:21-22; 15:41; 16:5; 18:23

By Paul: Romans 1:11-12; 16:25-27; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

The word "*strengthen*" or "*establish*" is translated from the original Greek word "*stērizō*" and "*epistērizō*" which means to "make stronger, fix or to fasten in place". Its usage gives us a key insight into what Paul wanted new churches to become. He wanted them to be doctrinally "fixed" or "fastened" in their faith. Literally this word means to "support or to fix something so that it stands upright by itself or becomes immovable." For example, the original word literally was used to describe a stake that supports a vine. Look at the diagram below:



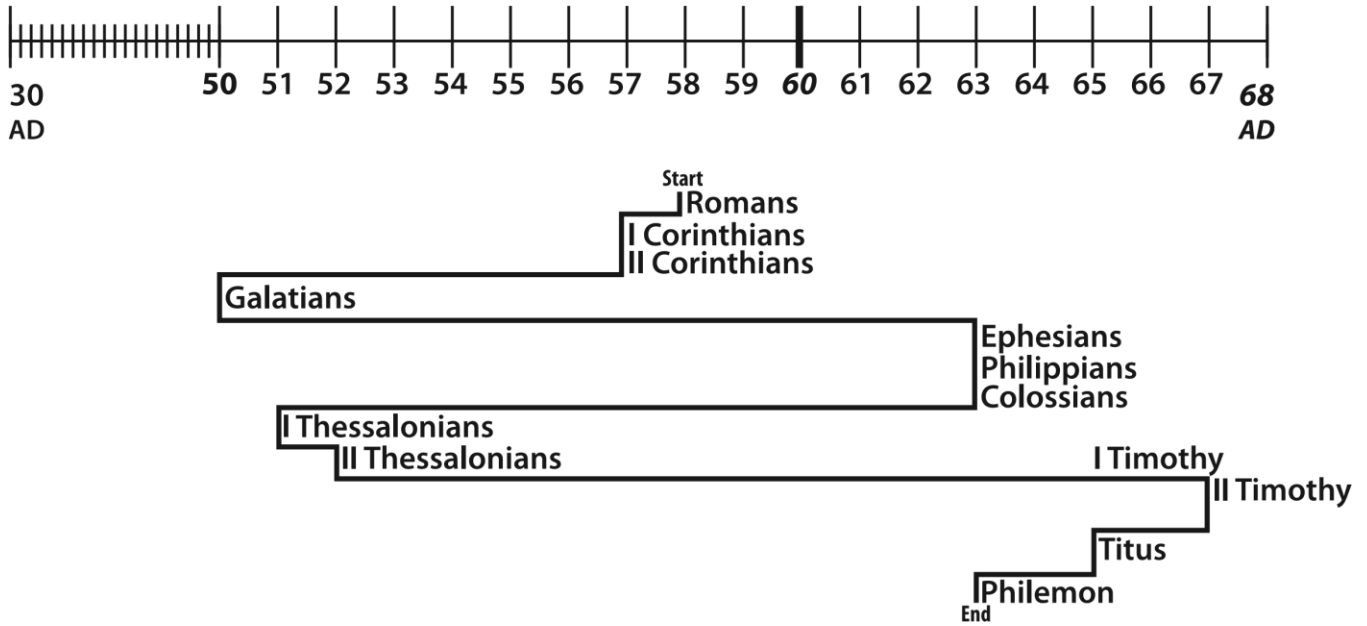
Therefore, Paul wanted the newly founded churches to be stable and self-sustaining, not easily moved or shaken by false doctrine or teaching. In order to strengthen the new disciples, Paul not only visited these churches, but he wrote letters to them.

Since Paul was a master church planter, let us consider his letters like "tools" of his trade, so to speak. Just as a master carpenter or mechanic must know what tools to use on a particular job, so a master church planter should know what tools to use to make a church strong. See the tools in the diagram below and identify how each one is used:

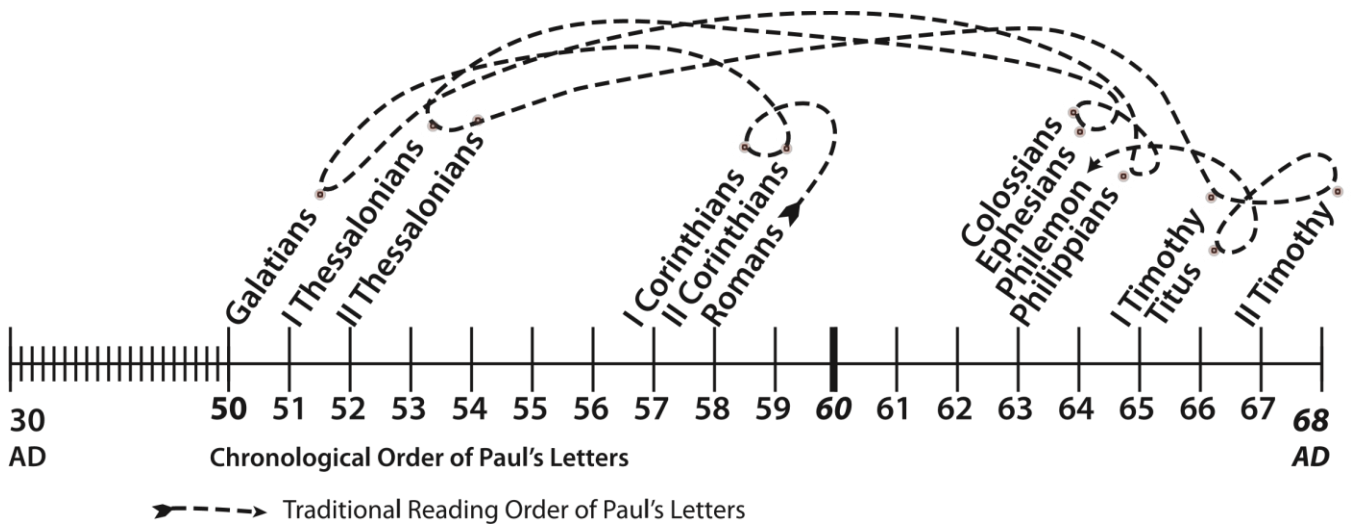


While this seems so simple, it is amazing to see pastors, ministers and teachers using a hammer to saw a piece of wood or a saw to hammer a nail or a wrench to loosen a screw, etc. Just like carpenters and mechanics become masters of their trade, so church leaders should become master church planters and establishers using God’s tools which are His Word. God has given us every tool we need to deal with any “construction or mechanical” problem one might face in the Church through His Word (II Timothy 3:16-17). God has graciously and abundantly provided the necessary tools for us to make churches strong.

Since these tools represent Paul’s letters to the churches, look at their order in the Bible:



Now let us arrange Paul’s letters into chronological order:



Now that we have them in chronological order, we can see them theologically divided into 3 categories: his early letters, middle letters, and latter letters. This chronological order gives tremendous insight into the strategy Paul used to make these newly founded churches strong. Note: Some Bible scholars say I and II Thessalonians were written before Galatians.

For example, his first or early letters or tools were written to establish new believers in the gospel of grace. The following is a breakdown or description of his letters in chronological and theological order. (Note: Paul's letters or tools under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit addressed specific and real-life issues in these newly founded or planted churches.)

### **Paul's Early Letters** *(Tools used to establish and defend the gospel of grace)*

**Galatians:** Returning to the Spirit, faith and the pure gospel

**1 and 2 Thessalonians:** Standing firm in the gospel

**1 Corinthians:** Divisions solved by the implications of the gospel

**2 Corinthians:** Defense of the ministry and minister of the gospel

**Romans:** Preaching a complete discourse and work of the gospel

### **Paul's Middle Letters** *(Tools for churches to be single-minded in the purpose and plan of God)*

**Ephesians:** Grasping the mystery of the church and revealing the plan of Christ

**Philippians:** Being of one mind in the church and the participation in the progress of the gospel

**Colossians:** Keeping the focus on the Head of the Church

**Philemon:** Relational implications of being one-minded in the progress of the gospel

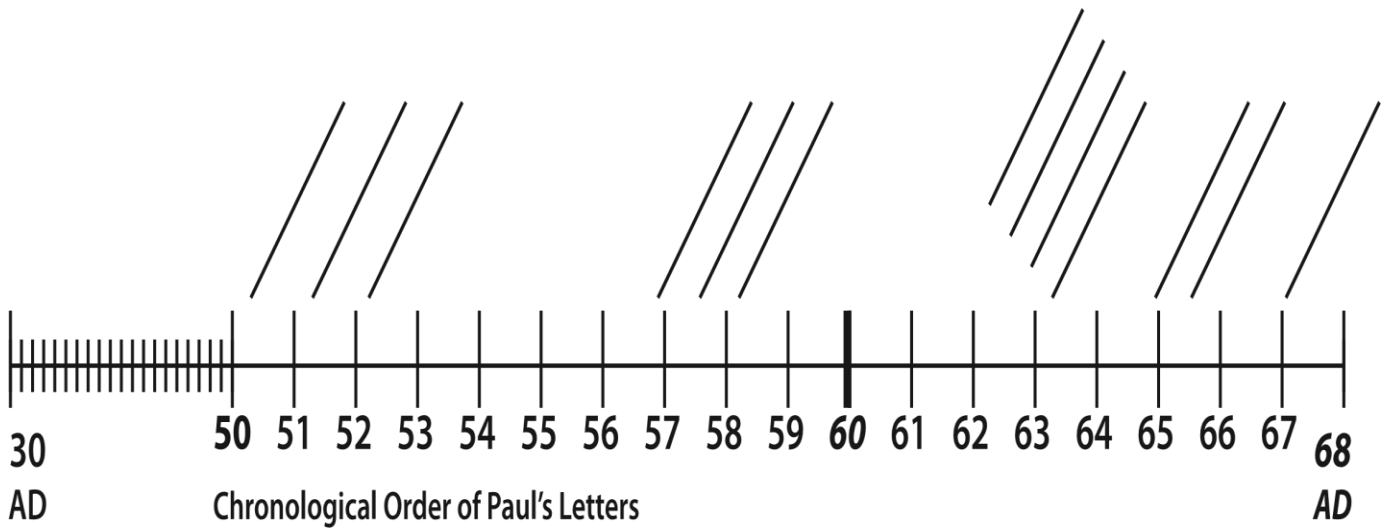
### **Paul's Latter Letters** *(Tools to put God's household in proper order)*

**1 Timothy:** Properly ordering the community life of the household of God, His Church

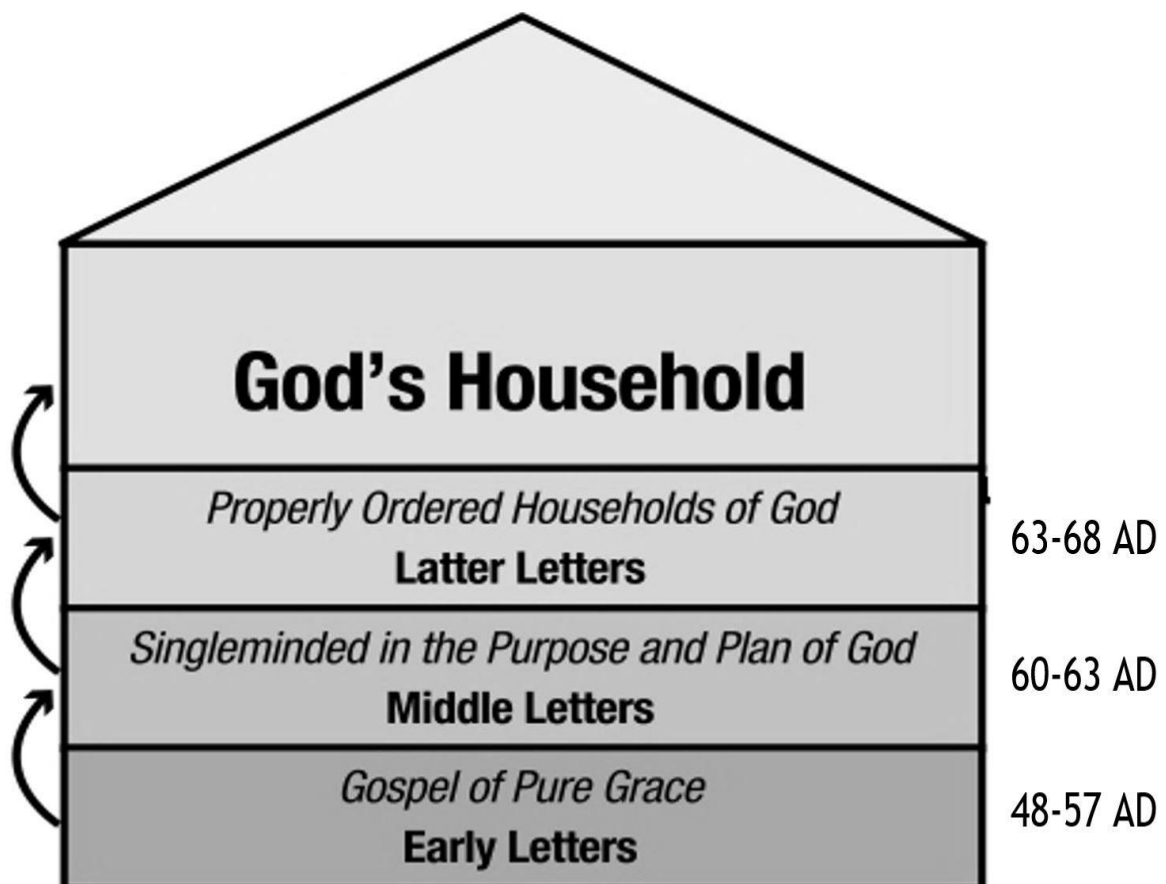
**Titus:** Setting in order what remains by fully establishing the churches in sound doctrine

**2 Timothy:** Passing the baton on to well-trained, faithful leaders for the next generation

Now without looking back, see if you can arrange Paul's 13 letters in chronological order by filling in the blanks:



You could describe Paul's letters theologically as building blocks which were laid chronologically for the foundation of God's household. See the diagram below:

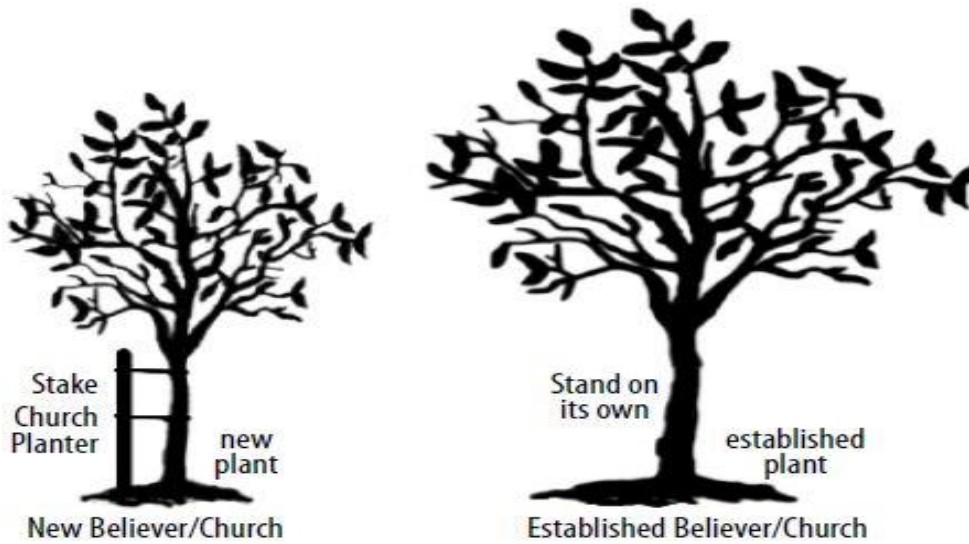


*God's Plan for a Strong Church*

Lesson 12

**Strengthening or Establishing Churches:  
Paul's Letters**

Paul was a master church builder who laid the foundation upon which others built. He was not only concerned with starting new churches but he wanted existing churches to be strong and established. This is evidenced by the usage of the word "strengthen or establish" in God's Word.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about strengthening and establishing disciples and churches from the Word of God.

Luke 22:32 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:22-25; 2 Peter 1:12 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 14:21-23 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 15:36-16:5 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 18:22-23 \_\_\_\_\_



Romans 1:8-12 \_\_\_\_\_

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Romans 16:25-27 \_\_\_\_\_

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1 Thessalonians 3:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

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1 Thessalonians 4:12 \_\_\_\_\_

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2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 \_\_\_\_\_

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2 Thessalonians 3:3 \_\_\_\_\_

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Revelation 3:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a brief summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God's Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

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What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

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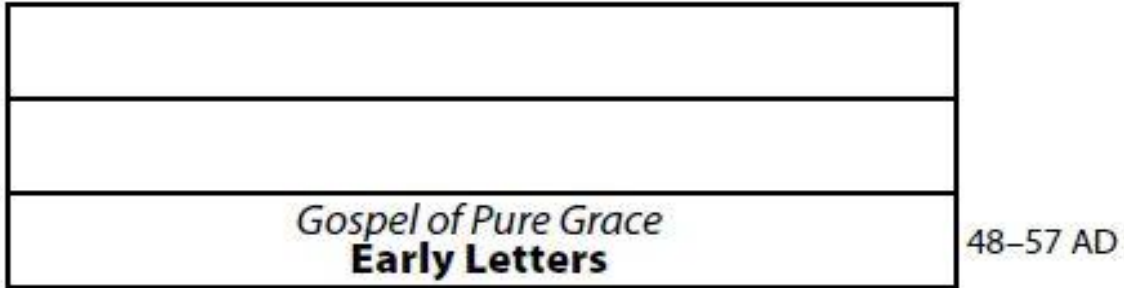
**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

*God's Plan for a Strong Church*

Lesson 13

**Establishing Churches: Paul's Early Letters - 48-57AD**

*Galatians* is one of Paul's first letters written to establish believers in the gospel of grace. This letter teaches that a believer is set free and justified by grace alone through faith. It exposes a popular substitute for the Spirit in today's Church which is the flesh.



**Observation and Meditation:** Read the following questions and the Scripture, and summarize what you learned.

What is the Pure Gospel of Grace? Read Galatians 1:1-24 and summarize your answer:

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What is the difference between the Pure Gospel of Grace and the Law? Read Galatians 2:1-21 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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How is a person declared justified or made righteous before God? Read Galatians 3:1-29 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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How does the Apostle Paul prove that salvation is by the Pure Gospel of Grace and not the Law? Read Galatians 4:1-31 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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What is the difference between walking in the Spirit and walking in the flesh? Read Galatians 5:1-26 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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How does the Gospel of Pure Grace bring glory to God and not to man or self? Read Galatians 6:1-18 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Discussion:** Contrast the Gospel of Pure Grace with the Law. Compare the Gospel of Pure Grace in Galatians with your lives, your families and churches. \_\_\_\_\_

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What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church to be better established in the Gospel of Pure Grace? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

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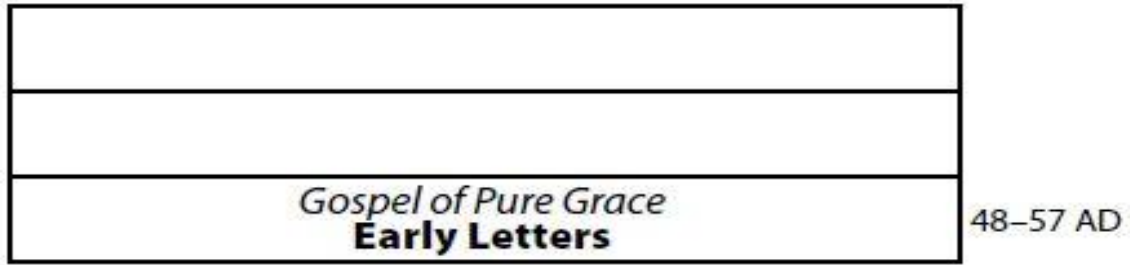
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*God's Plan for a Strong Church*

Lesson 14

**Establishing Churches: Paul's Early Letters - 48-57AD**

*1 and 2 Thessalonians* were Paul's second and third letters written to establish believers in the gospel of grace. These letters encouraged new believers to persevere and grow in their new faith, and to live godly lives despite their afflictions and persecution.



**Observation and Meditation:** Read the following questions and the Scripture, and summarize what you learned.

What was the effect or the result of the Pure Gospel of Grace coming to the Thessalonians?

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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How did the Apostle Paul minister the Gospel of Pure Grace to the Thessalonians?

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-3:13 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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What is your responsibility to receiving the Pure Gospel of Grace? Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-5:28 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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How does the Pure Gospel of Grace help you stand firm in enduring suffering and facing judgment? Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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How does the Pure Gospel of Grace help you stand firm as the Day of the Lord and the Man of Lawlessness is revealed? Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17 and summarize your answer:

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What are some of the practical aspects of the Pure Gospel of Grace? Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Discussion:** What are the effects and the responsibilities of the Gospel of Pure Grace? Compare the Gospel of Pure Grace as seen in the Thessalonians with your lives, your families and churches. \_\_\_\_\_

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What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church to be better established in the Gospel of Pure Grace? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

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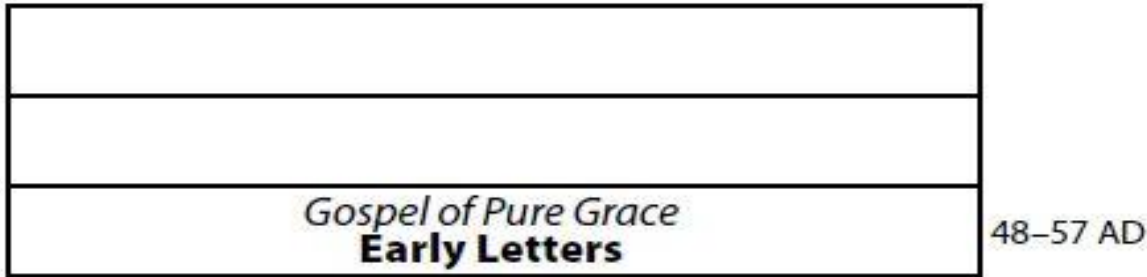
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*God's Plan for a Strong Church*

Lesson 15

**Establishing Churches: Paul's Early Letters - 48-57AD**

*First Corinthians* was Paul's fourth letter written to establish new believers in the gospel of grace. This letter was written to unify and sanctify this new church by helping them to understand the implications of the Gospel of Pure Grace and to put into practice their position in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.



**Observation and Meditation:** Read the following questions and the Scripture, and summarize what you learned.

How can the implications of the Gospel of Pure Grace prevent divisions within the Church?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-4:21 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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How can the implications of the Gospel of Pure Grace correct moral disorders in the church?

Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-6:20 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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What are the implications of the Gospel of Pure Grace concerning standing firm in:

**Marriage** (Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-40 and see Lesson 29): \_\_\_\_\_

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**Idols** (Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-10:33): \_\_\_\_\_

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**Assembly Meetings** (Read 1 Corinthians 11:1-34): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Spiritual Gifts** (Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-14:40): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Death and Resurrection** (Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-58): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Collection** (Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-24): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** See Supplement **Giving and Financial Matters**, page 195.

**Discussion:** How does the Gospel of Pure Grace help to prevent divisions and correct moral and assembly meeting disorders? Compare the Gospel of Pure Grace as seen in 1 Corinthians with your lives, your families and churches. \_\_\_\_\_  
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What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church to help them stand firm in the Gospel of Pure Grace? \_\_\_\_\_  
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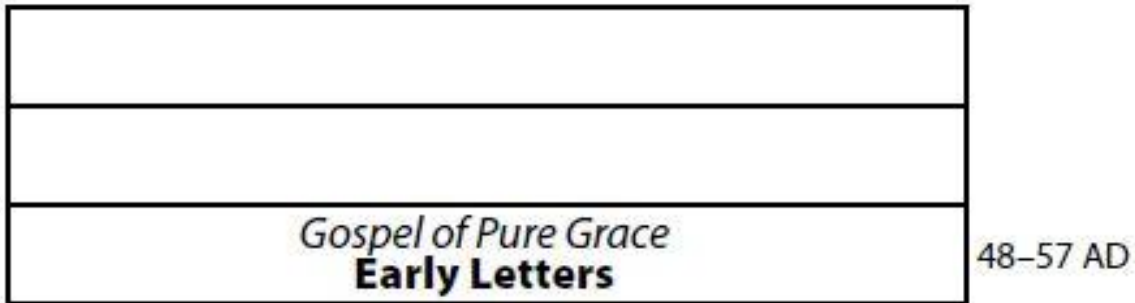
**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church? \_\_\_\_\_  
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*God's Plan for a Strong Church*

Lesson 16

**Establishing Churches: Paul's Early Letters - 48-57AD**

*Second Corinthians* was Paul's fifth letter written to establish new believers in the gospel of grace. False teachers were dividing the new church by discrediting both Paul and his message. This letter was written to authenticate his message and to defend his apostleship.



**Observation and Meditation:** Read the following questions and the Scripture, and summarize what you learned.

How does the Minister of the Gospel of Pure Grace defend his conduct? Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-2:11 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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How does the Minister of the Gospel of Pure Grace defend his ministry? Read 2 Corinthians 2:12-7:16 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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How does the Minister of the Gospel of Pure Grace defend giving or providing a collection? Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15 and summarize your answer:

**Note:** See Supplement Giving and Financial Matters, page 195.

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How does the Minister of the Gospel of Pure Grace vindicate his apostleship (See Lesson 34)?

Read 2 Corinthians 10:1-12:13 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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How does the Minister of the Gospel of Pure Grace vindicate his mission?

Read 2 Corinthians 12:14-13:14 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Discussion:** How can a Minister of the Gospel of Pure Grace defend and vindicate his mission and message? Compare the Minister of the Gospel of Pure Grace as seen in 2 Corinthians with your lives, your families and churches. \_\_\_\_\_

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What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church to be better established in the Gospel of Pure Grace? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

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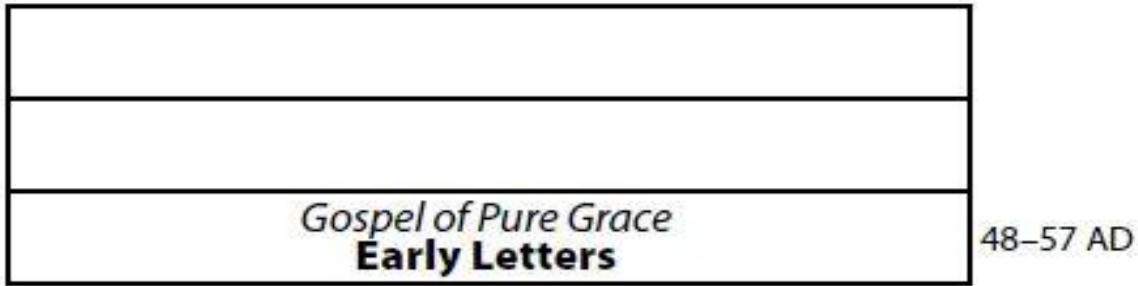
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*God's Plan for a Strong Church*

Lesson 17

**Establishing Churches: Paul's Early Letters - 48-57AD**

*Romans* was Paul's sixth letter and his longest. It is the most complete treatise of the gospel, written to establish new believers in the Gospel of Pure Grace. Paul explains justification by faith alone and details the implications of sin, salvation, sanctification and service in Christ.



**Observation and Meditation:** Read the following questions and the Scripture, and summarize what you learned.

Why does everyone need to hear the Gospel of Pure Grace? Read Romans 1:1-3:20 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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How does the Gospel of Pure Grace provide justification and righteousness to guilty and unrighteous people? Read Romans 3:21-5:21 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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How does the Gospel of Pure Grace sanctify or set apart people to be like Christ? Read Romans 6:1-8:39 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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How does the Gospel of Pure Grace reveal righteousness and fulfill God's sovereign choice in a person? Read Romans 9:1-11:36 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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How does the Gospel of Pure Grace transform a person into a living instrument of God's righteousness? Read Romans 12:1-16:27 and summarize your answer:

**Notes:** See Supplement Relationship with the World and Government, page 199.

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What does a transformed person look like in his life, family, church and world? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Discussion:** How does the Gospel of Pure Grace justify guilty sinners and make them righteous? \_\_\_\_\_

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What does a sinner who has been forgiven, transformed and made righteous, look like?

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What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church to be better established in the Gospel of Pure Grace? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

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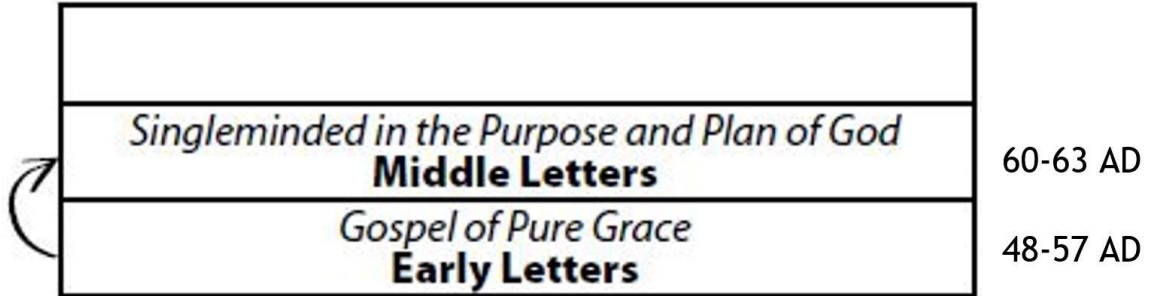
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*God's Plan for a Strong Church*

Lesson 18

**Establishing Churches: Paul's Middle Letters - 60-63AD**

*Ephesians* was Paul's first letter of his middle letters, written from prison, to establish and unify believers in the Person and the eternal plan of Christ which was hidden in ages past, but now revealed. Paul explains how the gospel of grace impacts individuals and families in displaying God's glorious plan by His power at work in us.



**Observation and Meditation:** Read the following questions and the Scripture, and summarize what you learned.

What are the blessings or possessions you have in Christ? Read Ephesians 1:1-23 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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What is your individual and corporate new position in Christ? Read Ephesians 2:1-22 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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What is the Apostle Paul's prayer for the church which is the eternal plan of God? Read Ephesians 3:1-21 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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How does the Apostle Paul instruct believers to walk in the church which is the eternal plan of God? Read Ephesians 4-6 and summarize each answer below:

Walk in Unity (4:1-16): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Walk in Purity (4:17-32) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Walk in Love (5:1-6) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Walk in the Light (5:7-14) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Walk Carefully (5:15-17) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Walk in Harmony (5:18-6:9) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Walk in Victory (6:10-24) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:** How does the letter to the Ephesians contribute to unity and singlemindedness in the purpose and eternal plan of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church to better establish them in the purpose and eternal plan of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

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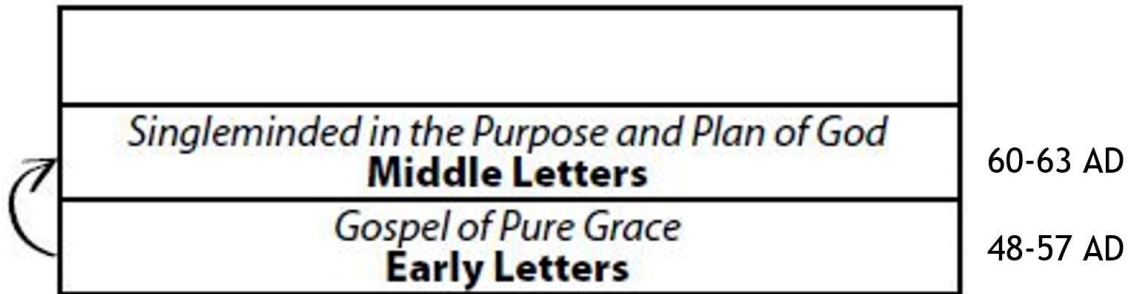
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# God's Plan for a Strong Church

## Lesson 19

### Establishing Churches: Paul's Middle Letters - 60-63AD

*Philippians* was Paul's second of his middle letters, written from prison, to establish and unify believers in the person and the eternal plan of Christ. Paul explains how the gospel of grace and righteousness through faith, impacts individuals and families to live as humble servants in Christ for the progress of the gospel.



**Observation and Meditation:** Read the following questions and the Scripture, and summarize what you learned.

How does standing firm in one spirit, with one mind, striving side by side for the advancement of the gospel of Christ, contribute to singlemindedness in the purpose and eternal plan of God? Read Philippians 1:1-30 and summarize your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

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How does the mind of Christ and humility contribute to singlemindedness in the purpose and eternal plan of God? Read Philippians 2:1-30 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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Contrast the mind that is set on earthly things with a spiritual mind that is set on knowing Christ. Which one contributes to unity in the purpose and eternal plan of God? Read Philippians 3:1-21 and summarize your answers: \_\_\_\_\_

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How does rejoicing in the Lord and praying in everything help produce unity and single-mindedness in the purpose and eternal plan of God? Read Philippians 4:1-23 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Discussion:** Name some ways you can help maintain and develop unity and singlemindedness in the church or the purpose and eternal plan of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church to be better established in the purpose and eternal plan of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

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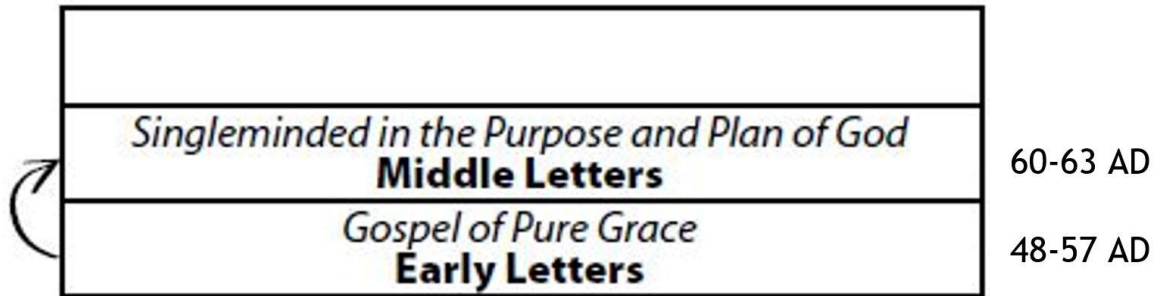
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*God's Plan for a Strong Church*

Lesson 20

**Establishing Churches: Paul's Middle Letters - 60-63AD**

*Colossians* was Paul's third of his middle letters, written from prison, to establish and unify believers in the Person and the eternal plan of Christ, who is Head of the Church. Paul shows the superiority of Christ over philosophies, traditions and legalism, and how to live focused on the heavenly rather than the earthly things.



**Observation and Meditation:** Read the following questions and the Scripture, and summarize what you learned.

How does giving Christ preeminence or first place in your life, family and the Church contribute to singlemindedness in the purpose and eternal plan of God? Read Colossians 1:1-29 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How do philosophy, human traditions, regulations and self-made religion cause disunity in the purpose and eternal plan of God? Read Colossians 2:1-23 and summarize your answer:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How is the preeminence of Christ in the purpose and eternal plan of God displayed in:

Personal Purity 3:1-11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Church Fellowship 3:12-17 \_\_\_\_\_

Home and family 3:18-21 \_\_\_\_\_

Work 3:22-4:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Serving 4:2-18 \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:** Contrast the difference between Christ's preeminence in the Church with a self-made religion or philosophy. How does the preeminence of Christ contribute to the singlemindedness of the purpose and eternal plan of God? \_\_\_\_\_

What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church to be better established in the purpose and eternal plan of God? \_\_\_\_\_

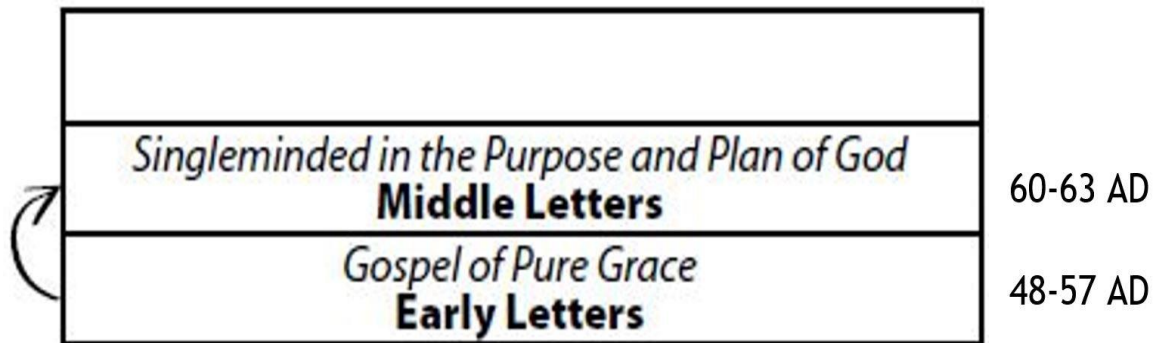
**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

## God's Plan for a Strong Church

### Lesson 21

## Establishing Churches: Paul's Middle Letters - 60-63AD

*Philemon* was Paul's fourth letter of the middle letters, written from prison, to establish and unify believers in the person and the eternal plan of Christ. Paul shows the power of the Gospel and its relational implications in individuals and families being one-minded in the progress of the gospel.



**Observation and Meditation:** Read the following questions and the Scripture, and summarize what you learned.

What are some things the Apostle Paul says and does that helps to establish and unify believers in the Person and the eternal plan of Christ? Read Philemon 1-7 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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What words and descriptions does the Apostle Paul use that promote or encourage singlemindedness and love in the purpose and eternal plan of God, the Church? Read Philemon 8-16 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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What similarities do you see between the Apostle Paul and Christ? Read Philemon 17-20 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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How did the Apostle Paul's final greetings and appeal help establish the Gospel of Pure Grace and singlemindedness in the purpose and eternal plan of God? Read Philemon 21-25 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Discussion:** Compare the Apostle Paul's words and life in Philemon with the words and life of Christ and then contrast them with your own life, family, and church. \_\_\_\_\_

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What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church to be better established in the purpose and eternal plan of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

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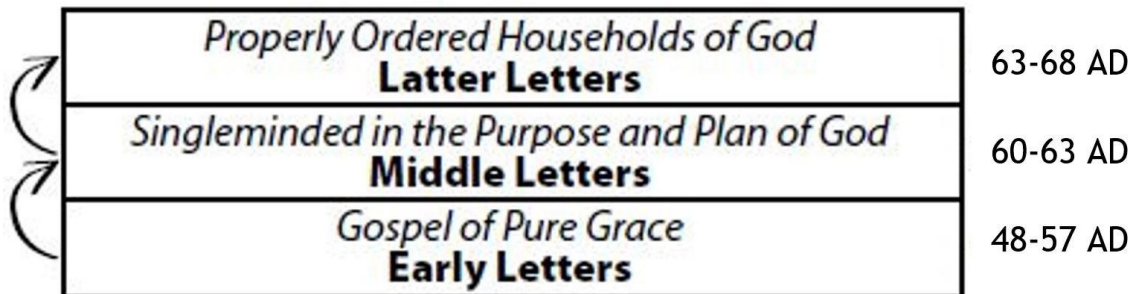
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## God's Plan for a Strong Church

### Lesson 22

# Establishing Churches: Paul's Latter Letters - 63-68AD

First Timothy was Paul's first letter of the latter letters, written to establish churches into a properly ordered household. Paul is passing on to his spiritual son, Timothy, the pattern needed for him to continue Paul's work after his departure. The pattern is sound teaching, godliness with contentment, and the appointment of qualified spiritual overseers.



**Observation and Meditation:** Read the following questions and the Scripture, and summarize what you learned.

Why is sound doctrine and a good conscience so important in properly ordering the household of God? Read 1 Timothy 1:1-20 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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What instructions does the Apostle Paul give on prayer and the conduct of men and women in the Church or household of God? Read 1 Timothy 2:1-15 and summarize your answer:

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Why is qualified leadership so important in properly ordering the Church or household of God? Read 1 Timothy 3:1-16 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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How does a disciple train for godliness, and what does godliness look like in the Church or household of God? Read 1 Timothy 4:1-16 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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What instructions does the Apostle Paul give to older men and women, widows and elders in properly ordering the household of God? Read 1 Timothy 5:1-25 and summarize your answer:

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What are some of the Apostle Paul's final exhortations in properly ordering the household of God? Read 1 Timothy 6:1-21 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Discussion:** The Apostle Paul wrote 1 Timothy so that you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, the Church of the living God. What are some key principles that tell you how to live in your lives, and in your families and churches?

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What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church to properly order them in the household of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

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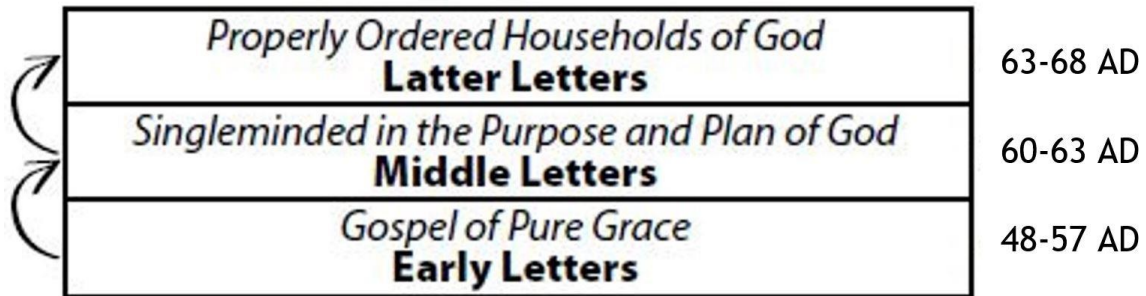
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## God's Plan for a Strong Church

### Lesson 23

## Establishing Churches: Paul's Latter Letters - 63-68AD

*Titus* was Paul's second of his latter letters written to establish churches into a properly ordered household. Paul is teaching in accordance with sound doctrine which is the proper ordering of God's household into the different biblical roles. He explains the importance of living by grace and maintaining purity in God's household.



**Observation and Meditation:** Read the following questions and the Scripture, and summarize what you learned.

The Apostle Paul left Titus in Crete to put in order the household of God by appointing elders. What were the qualifications for these elders? Read Titus 1:1-16 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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The Apostle Paul told Titus to teach sound doctrine. Explain the function and character for the different roles in God's Household. Read Titus 2:1-10 and summarize your answer:

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How does training in the Gospel of Pure Grace impact properly ordered households of God?

Read Titus 2:11-15 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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How does the Gospel of Pure Grace motivate someone to live or behave in the household of God? Read Titus 3:1-15 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Discussion:** Explain how Titus properly put in order the church in Crete and contrast these principles of order with your lives, your families and churches. \_\_\_\_\_

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What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church to properly order them in the household of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

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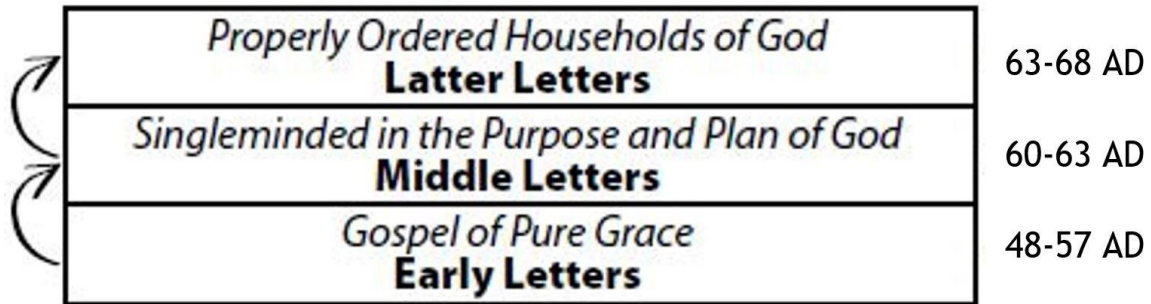
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## God's Plan for a Strong Church

### Lesson 24

## Establishing Churches: Paul's Latter Letters - 63-68AD

*Second Timothy* was Paul's last letter written from prison, prior to his execution, to establish churches into properly ordered households. Paul is passing on to his spiritual son the importance of entrusting the Word to faithful leaders who will be able to teach others.



**Observation and Meditation:** Read the following questions and the Scripture, and summarize what you learned.

The Apostle Paul is passing the ministry torch of properly ordering the household of God on to Timothy. What pattern was Timothy to follow and how was he to guard this pattern or deposit that was entrusted to him? Read 2 Timothy 1:1-18 and summarize your answer:

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The Apostle Paul wanted his pattern passed on to the next generation. Describe what a faithful and approved worker of God looks like. Why is this important in properly ordering the household of God for the future? Read 2 Timothy 2:1-26 and summarize your answer:

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What creeps into the household of God in the last days? Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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What happens to a believer who desires to follow the Apostle Paul's teaching and live according to the Word of God? Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17 and summarize your answer:

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How did the Apostle Paul challenge Timothy to endure to the end? Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe the Apostle Paul's enemies and friends he faced in properly ordering the household of God. Everyone deserted him, but who stood by his side to the very end? Read 2 Timothy 4:9-22 and summarize your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Discussion:** Have we been faithful to pass on to the next generation a properly ordered household of God by following the Apostle Paul as he followed Christ? Contrast the Apostle Paul's life and words to Timothy with your lives, your families and churches today.

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What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church to better pass on the order in God's household to the next generation? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

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# God's Plan for a Strong Church

## Project F

### How to Fully Establish a Church

**Note:** See Separate Training Manual - God's Plan for His Disciples

**Note:** See Supplement Handling Conflict, Page 192.

**Note:** See Supplement Giving and Financial Matters, Page 195.

1. Write a one paragraph summary of Paul's concept of the "establishing" process.

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2. Summarize how each of Paul's groups of letters (Early, Middle, and Latter) contributed to the establishing process.

Early Letters: \_\_\_\_\_

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Middle Letters: \_\_\_\_\_

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Latter Letters: \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Begin to develop a strategy for fully establishing a church. This is a living project which will be modified as the course is completed. \_\_\_\_\_

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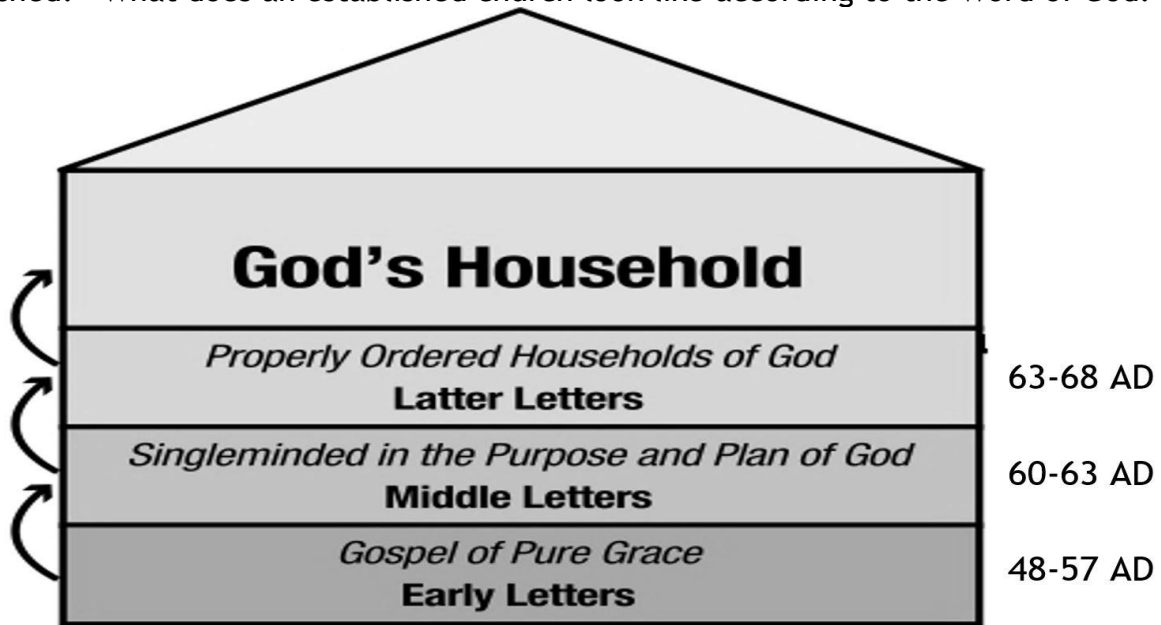
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# God's Plan for a Strong Church

## Lesson 25

### An Established Church Defined Biblically

Paul was a master church builder who laid the foundation upon which others built. He was not just concerned with starting new churches; he wanted existing churches to be strong and established. What does an established church look like according to the Word of God?



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about an established church from the Word of God.

Acts 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2:37-39 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2:42-47 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 13:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 14:21-23 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 20:17-38 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ephesians 1:15-18 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Colossians 1:3-6 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
1 Thessalonians 1:2-4 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
1 Thessalonians 4:12 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
1 Corinthians 13:13 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a brief summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God's Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

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What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

## God's Plan for a Strong Church

### Project G

# Establishing a New Testament Church

**Note:** See Supplement Serving One Another (Church Membership), Page 197.

1. Describe a New Testament established church. Begin your description with, "A New Testament established church is..." Be certain the basic core elements are true for all churches at any time, in any culture. A New Testament established church is \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Compare your church with your description of a New Testament established church. Where does your church need to change?

**Note:** See Supplement Apostle's Ministry Assessment, Page 203.

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3. What can you do to help change today's church to become more of a New Testament model? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Write a brief strategy of your role and responsibility in helping to strengthen or renew your church into the biblical model: \_\_\_\_\_

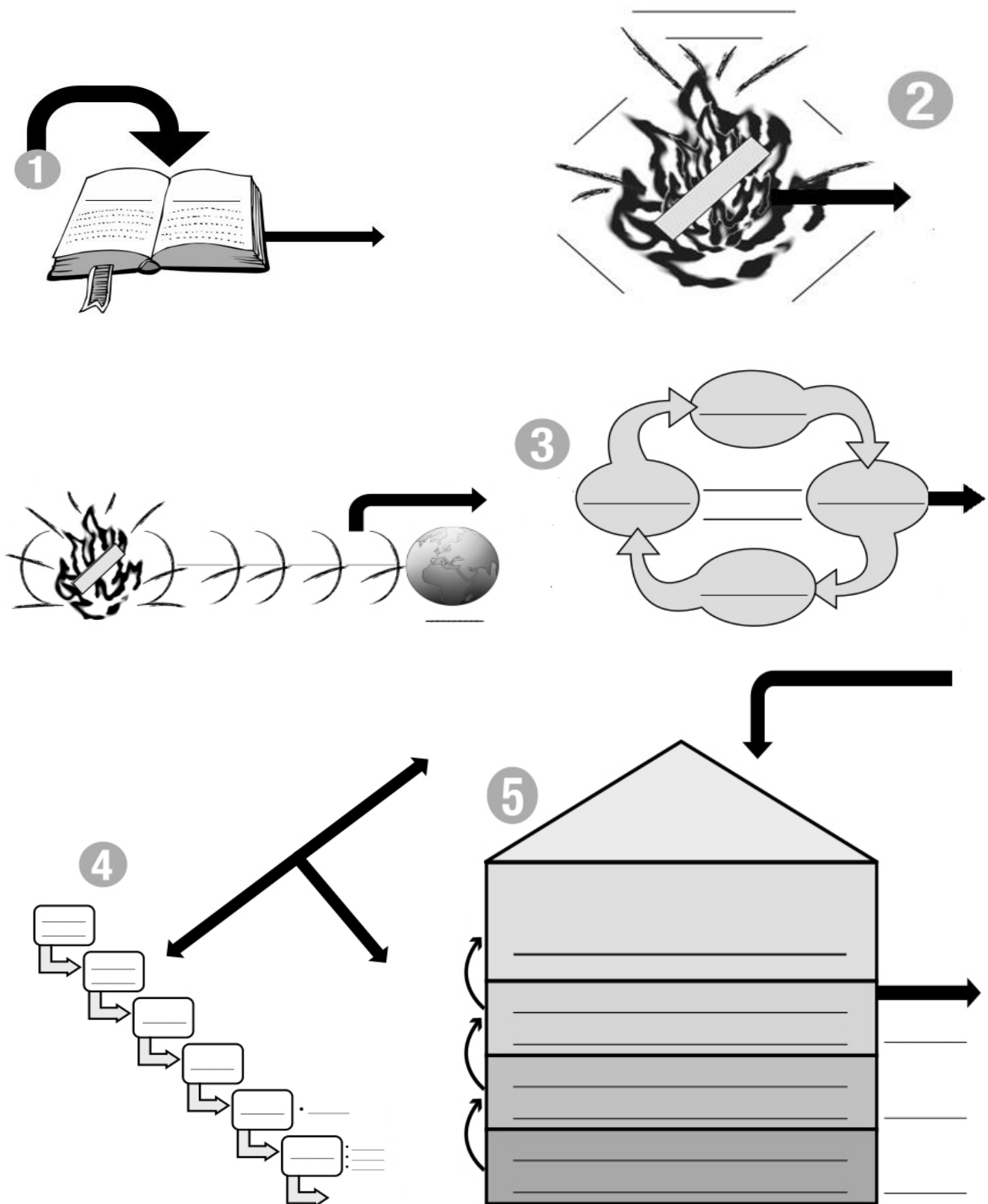
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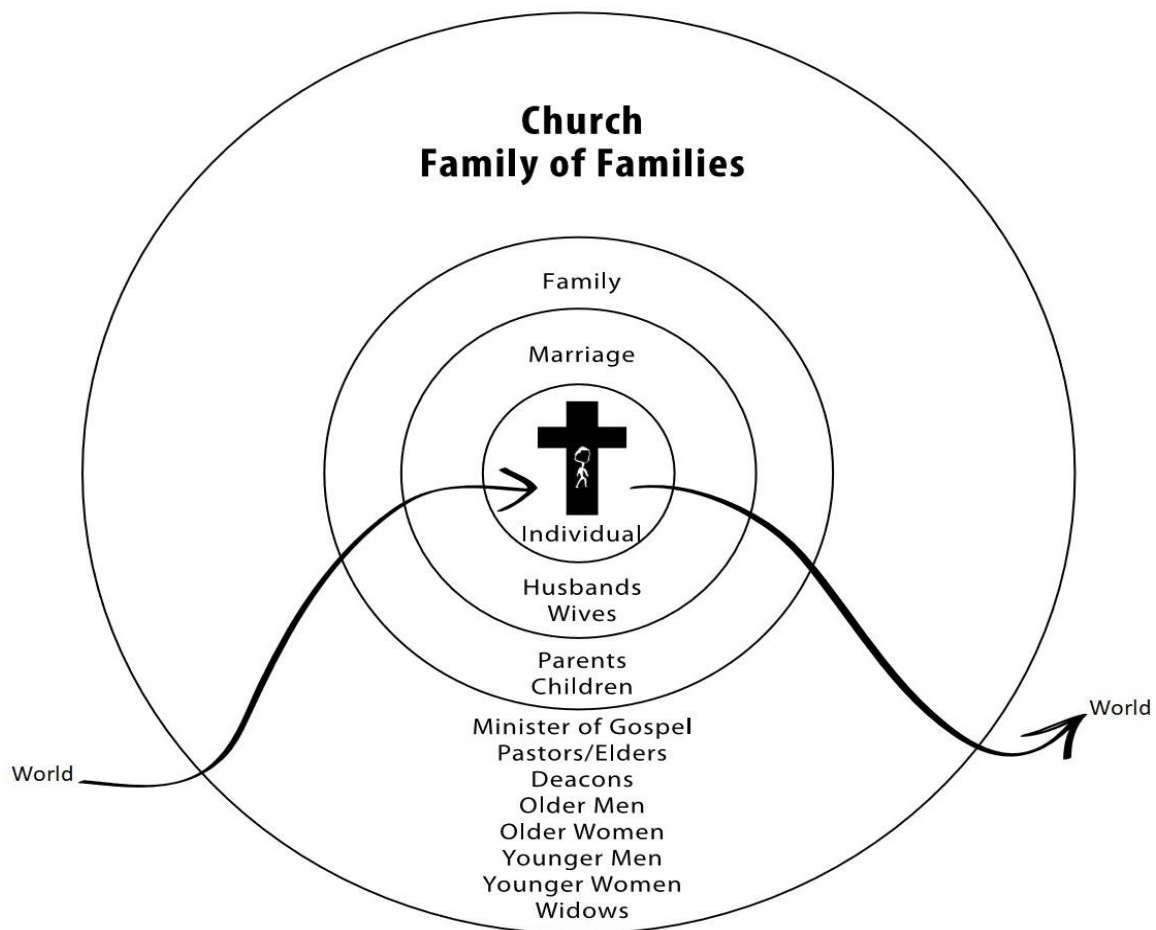
Review chapter 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, and fill in the blanks before going to chapter 6. (If you need more room to write, use the blank areas).



# Chapter 6

## *Our Challenge*

# Develop Ordered Churches



God is a God of order and His eternal plan for the age is an ordered household or church. His household is made up of families which are made up of individuals. His eternal plan is a basis for ALL strategies, plans and purposes. The above diagram illustrates God's household design and order for His eternal plan and shows the progression of an ordered Church found in Chapter 6.

## Within God's Eternal Plan, Paul had a Twofold Ministry

The Apostle Paul states in Ephesians 3:7-12 that his ministry had two parts:

1. What was the first part of Paul's twofold ministry according to Ephesians 3:8? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What was the second part of Paul's twofold ministry according to Ephesians 3:9? \_\_\_\_\_

Paul not only wanted to preach the "unsearchable riches of Christ;" he wanted to reveal or make known the "administration or stewardship" of God's plan. Making known God's plan was equally as important as preaching the gospel; actually, they are inseparable, like two sides of the same coin. Since we are familiar with the gospel, let us look further into the meaning of this key word used in Ephesians 3:9 for "administration, stewardship or plan." The word "administration or plan" in the original Greek is "*oikonomia*" which is a compound word that comes from two words:

"*oikos*" which means house, household, family, or home

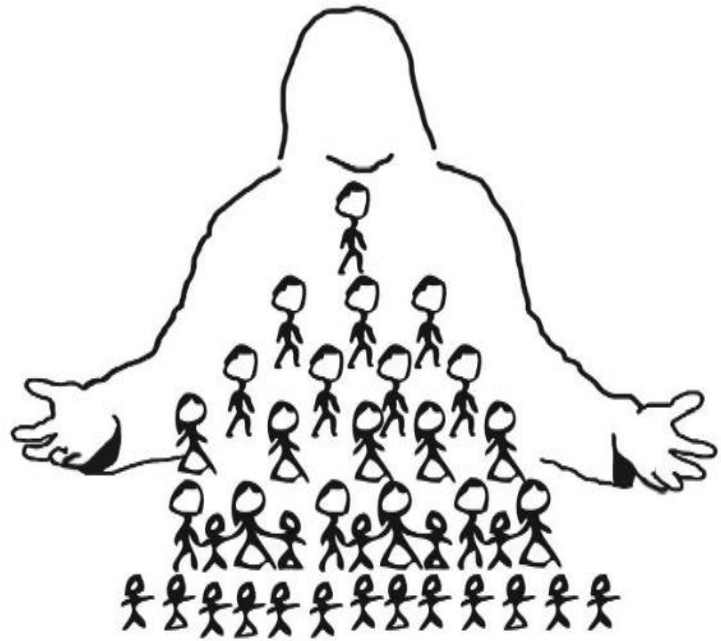
"*nomos*" which means law, order or management that governs behavior

Therefore, "*oikonomia*" means house law or management or household order. In addition to preaching the gospel of grace, Paul's job included revealing or making known God's order for His family or household, which is made up of both Jews and Gentiles; this was a mystery hidden, but now revealed. Paul clearly understood his job was not only preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ but also declaring how God wanted His Church structured and how it was to function. This theme runs continuously and consistently throughout Paul's letters.

3. Read 1 Timothy 3:14-15. Why was Paul writing this letter and what did he want the church to know? \_\_\_\_\_

When Paul writes to Timothy and Titus, he is instructing the believers how to properly live within the household or family of God, the Church. This concept of family is a universal concept since most know about a family. It is important to understand that the Church is a family made up of families and individuals. In other words, God's household or family is made up of many individual households or families; therefore, order in the church or household of God flows from order in the family. Proper order in the family will provide good order in the Church. Take a look again at the diagram on the previous page. Disorder in the family will affect the order in the Church. Peace, harmony, and unity in the family will be enhanced when everyone follows Paul's instructions and fulfills his or her biblical roles in the family and Church. On the next page is a diagram that helps illustrate ordering established believers into God's household, the Church or the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:12-13).





Paul expected believers to follow the instructions he established for churches (1 Corinthians 4:17; 7:17; 14:33; Philippians 2:12). He presented these instructions, or principles, in the thirteen letters he wrote to the various churches and individuals. Because the instructions were not fully followed, he considered the churches needed to be set in order. This is the reason Paul told Titus to stay in Crete according to Titus 1:5.

Paul's latter letters to Timothy and Titus were written to give us these household management instructions. Ministry in the church should be complementary, not in conflict with the family, just as women complement men, deacons complement elders, and elders complement Christ. No one should be at odds with anyone in ministry whether it is at home or in the church, because they are all interrelated and connected. For instance, according to 1 Timothy 3:4-5 and Titus 1:6, if a man can't manage his home, he might not be qualified to manage the church. Strong biblical leadership in the church comes from strong biblical leadership in the home.

Looking at relationships in the home helps us see our roles and responsibilities more clearly and more relationally in the Church. Since the Church is a family and not a business, knowing our role and responsibilities at home will enhance our church structure and function. Let's see what Paul says about the individual and family as they function together within the Church, the family of families or the household of God.

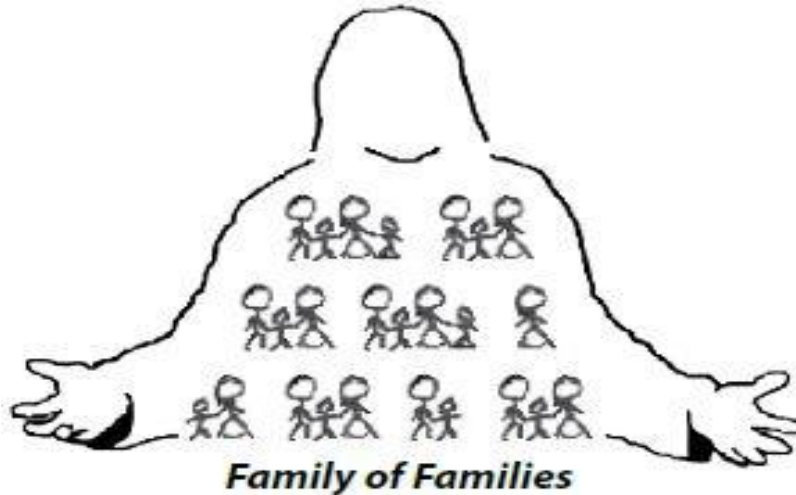
Before we start with our first lesson, take another look at the circles on page 127 and you can see that Christ should be made known and seen by the world through our individual lives, our marriage, our family and our church (Acts 4:13). They are all interrelated, and a breakdown in any of these relationships affects all the relationships and will reveal the wrong image of the Bride of Christ to the world. Now let us hear from God.

# *Biblical Roles in the Church Families*

## Lesson 26

### Household Family Order

Just as God has order in the universe, there is order in God’s family or household, which is made up of many families or individual households (see diagram below). Paul writes to Timothy and Titus explaining to them how to instruct God’s family to live properly in the household of God or the Church.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about living in God’s household.

Genesis 18:19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 35:2-4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 12:25 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 4:17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Romans 12:4-5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 11:3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 12:1-26 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 2:19-20 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 2:21-22 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 3:4-5 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 3:14-15 \_\_\_\_\_

Titus 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_

Titus 2:1 \_\_\_\_\_

**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God’s Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes) \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now? \_\_\_\_\_

**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

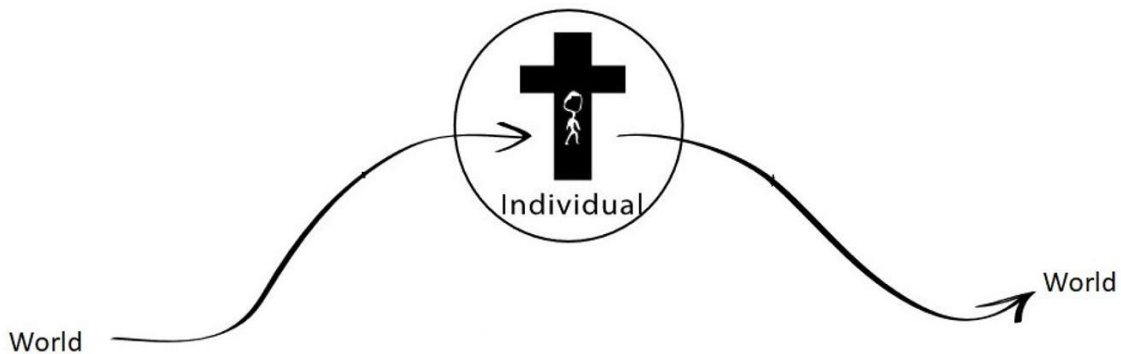
# Biblical Roles in the Church Families

## Lesson 27

### Your Life in Christ

There is nothing more critical and foundational to the Christian life than a believer knowing his/her rich inheritance in Christ. These riches in Christ do not grow, but are perfect and complete the instant they are possessed at salvation. They are in no way related to human merit, but stand on the merit of the Son of God, known only through divine revelation.

#### Church Family of Families



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about your relationship in Christ.

Ephesians 1:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 1:4 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 1:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 1:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 1:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 2:6 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 2:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 2:10 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 2:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 2:16 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 2:22 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 3:6 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 3:19 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 3:24 \_\_\_\_\_  
Romans 5:17 \_\_\_\_\_  
Romans 6:3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Romans 6:4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Romans 6:5 \_\_\_\_\_  
Romans 6:10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Romans 6:23 \_\_\_\_\_  
Romans 8:1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Romans 8:37 \_\_\_\_\_  
Romans 8:38-39 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Romans 16:10 \_\_\_\_\_  
1 Corinthians 1:2 \_\_\_\_\_  
1 Corinthians 4:10 \_\_\_\_\_  
1 Corinthians 15:22 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 Corinthians 2:14 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 Corinthians 5:17 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 Corinthians 12:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
Galatians 2:17 \_\_\_\_\_  
Galatians 2:19-20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Galatians 3:14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Colossians 1:27 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Colossians 2:9-10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Colossians 3:3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
2 Timothy 2:1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2 Timothy 2:10** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God’s Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

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What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

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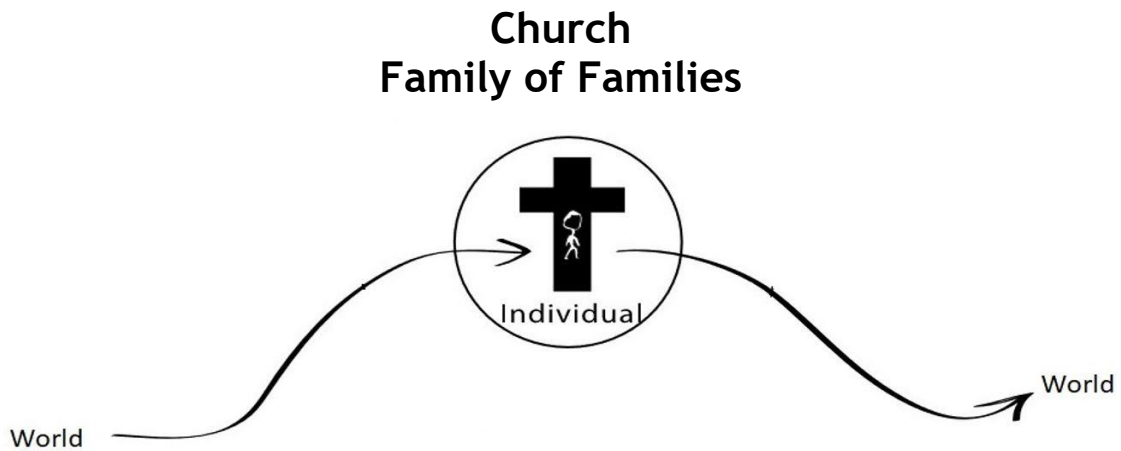
# *Biblical Roles in the Church Families*

## Lesson 28

### Your Life with Christ

One of the greatest privileges a believer has is to walk personally in the presence of the living God. Spending time daily in the presence of God is essential and vital to your spiritual life and walk with Christ. When you spend time alone with the Lord, you are in contact with what matters most. The most important thing we can do is something we all can do and that is spend time with Christ in the Word and in prayer.

**Note:** See supplement Lord's Supper, page 188.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about your relationship with Christ.

Genesis 3:8-9 \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 5:24 \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 48:15 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Chronicles 23:30 \_\_\_\_\_

Joshua 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 5:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 16:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Jeremiah 15:16 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 4:4 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 6:6 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 6:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 6:33 \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 1:35

Mark 3:13-14

Luke 10:38-42

Luke 15:3-32

John 6:25-51 and Exodus 16:13-21

John 15:1-11

John 21:15-19

Acts 4:13

Acts 20:28

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Philippians 3:7-14

1 Timothy 4:16

Hebrews 5:11 - 6:1



**1 Peter 1:22 - 2:3** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 John 1:3-7** \_\_\_\_\_

**Revelation 3:20** \_\_\_\_\_

**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God's Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes) \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

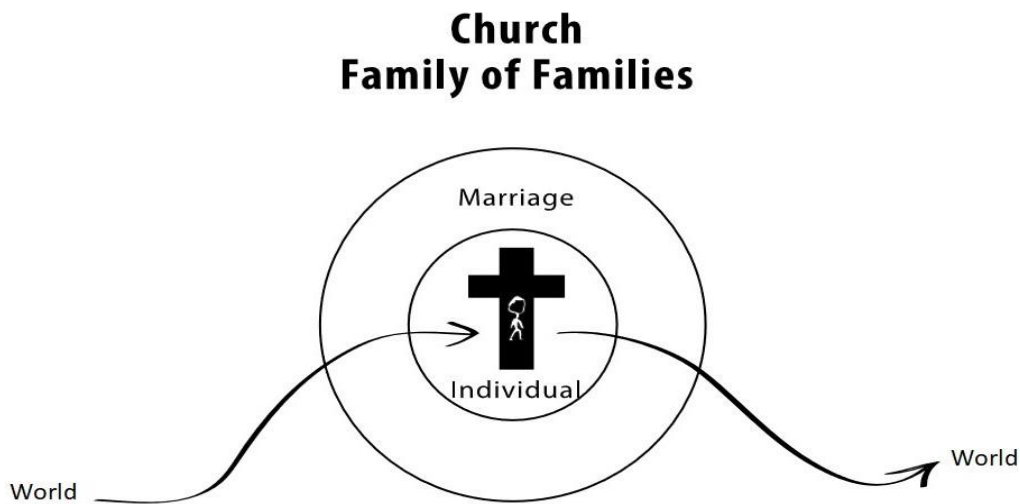
# Biblical Roles in the Church Families

## Lesson 29

### The Role of Marriage

The Church has allowed culture to redefine marriage. The Word of God defines marriage as a sacred vow between a man and a woman. By going back to the Word, husbands and wives can recapture the biblical view of marriage as it relates to the Body of Christ, the Church.

**Note:** See supplement Homosexuality and Same-sex Marriage, page 201.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about God's view of Marriage.

Genesis 2:18-25 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 19:3-6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mark 10:6-9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Luke 20:34-35 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 7:1-6, 26 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**1 Corinthians 13:4-13**

**Ephesians 3:8-11**

**Ephesians 5:29-33**

**Colossians 3:18-23**

**Hebrews 13:4-6**

**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God's Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes)

**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

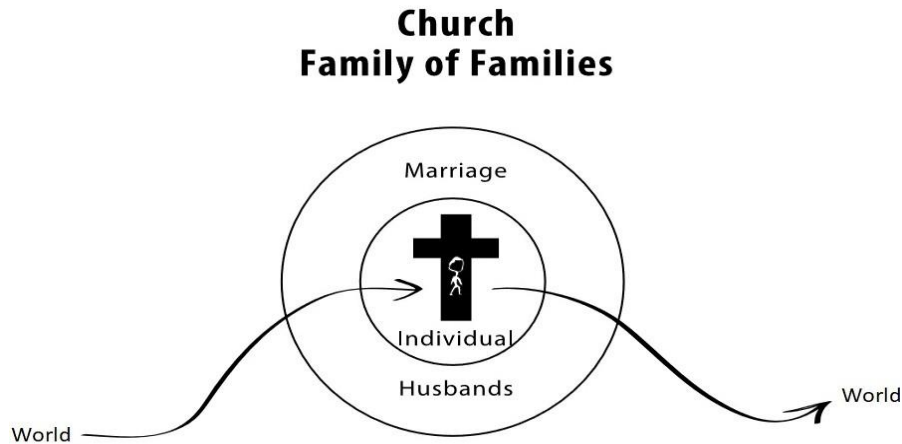
**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

# Biblical Roles in the Church Families

## Lesson 30

### The Role of Husbands

The Word of God clearly gives the headship of the home to the husband who submits to the Headship of Christ. His role is to love, guide, protect and provide spiritual and physical leadership for his wife and family. This role is an essential key to his ministry and a qualification to be pastor, elder, or overseer of the Church.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about the role of husbands.

Genesis 2:15-24 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 3:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 3:8-20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Jeremiah 44:19-23 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 11:3 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 14:33-40 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 5:21 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 5:23-24 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 5:25 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 5:26 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 5:27 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 5:28-30 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 5:31-32 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 5:33 \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 3:19 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 3:1-6 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 11:7 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 2:18 - 3:9 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God's Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

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\_\_\_\_\_

What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

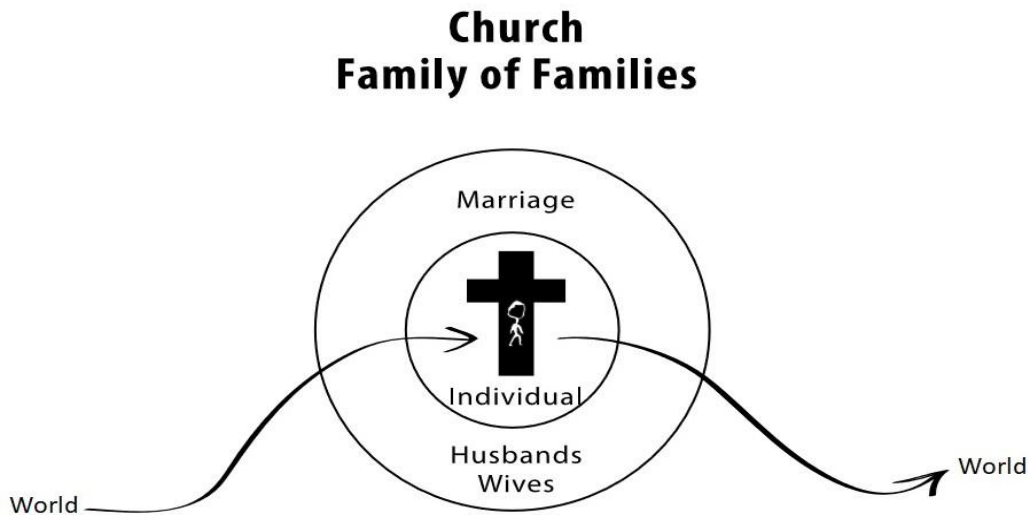
**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

# Biblical Roles in the Church Families

## Lesson 31

### The Role of Wives

Proverbs says, “An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels.” Her role is often misaligned by culture, but when Scripture is followed under the control of the Holy Spirit, she is a beautiful woman in union with her husband. Her role is essential to her husband’s ministry and his spiritual condition.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about the role of wives.

**Genesis 2:15-24** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Genesis 3:1-7** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Genesis 3:8-20** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 12:4** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 19:14** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 31:10-31** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Jeremiah 44:19-23** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 7:1-5 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
1 Corinthians 14:33-40 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ephesians 5:21-24 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Colossians 3:18 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
1 Timothy 3:11 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Titus 2:3-5 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
1 Peter 2:18-3:9 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God's Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

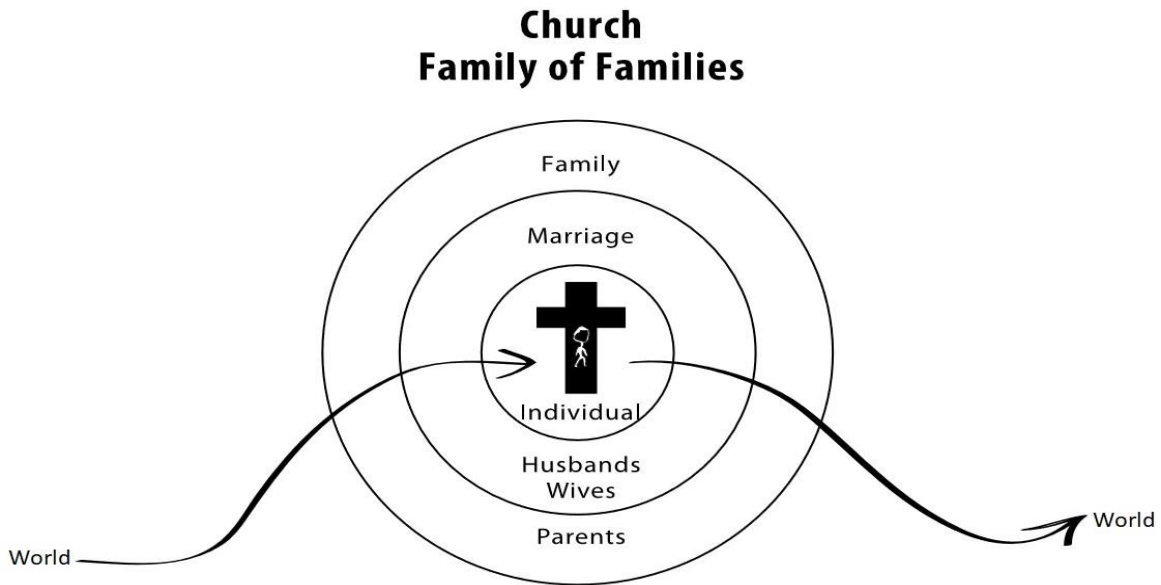
\_\_\_\_\_  
What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

## Lesson 32

# The Role of Parents

Let's face it, the home is one of the toughest places to train disciples. The good news is that Paul tells Timothy that all Scripture is not only useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16), but sufficient (3:17), which means there is plenty of help for parents in the Bible.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about parenting from the Word of God.

Genesis 1:26 - 3:24 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 22:1-14 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 13:24 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 17:6 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Proverbs 19:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 22:6 \_\_\_\_\_

Malachi 4:5-6 \_\_\_\_\_

John 9:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 1:30 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 6:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 3:20-21 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Timothy 3:2 \_\_\_\_\_

**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God’s Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes) \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

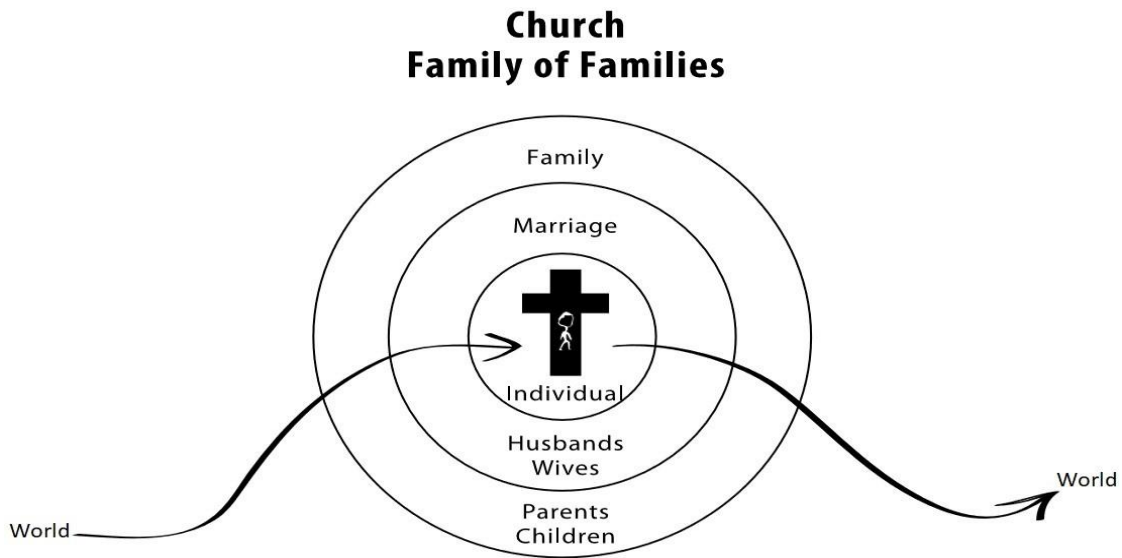
**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

# Biblical Roles in the Church Families

## Lesson 33

### The Role of Children

The culture today encourages children to disregard and disrespect their parents. The Word of God makes it perfectly clear that parents are to be obeyed and respected. Often this respect is difficult but this commandment, if obeyed, promises a full life.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about the role of children.

1 Samuel 1:21-2:36 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Job 31:15 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 127:3-4 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 144:12 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 1:7-10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 4:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 5:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 17:6 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 31:28 \_\_\_\_\_

Jeremiah 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 10:14-16

Luke 2:40, 52

Ephesians 6:1-3

Colossians 3:20

1 Timothy 5:4

2 Timothy 1:5

2 Timothy 3:1-5

2 Timothy 3:15

**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God's Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes)

**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

*Biblical Roles in the Church Families*

**Project H**

**Setting the Family in Order**

1. Beside each role in the family below, summarize their responsibilities within the family.

**Christ:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Marriage:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Husbands:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Wives:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Parents:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Children:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Compare your family to your answers above in (1). Where does your family need to change? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What can you do to help make that happen? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Write a brief strategy of your role and responsibility in your family: \_\_\_\_\_

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Now having set the family in order, we transition to setting the Family of Families, the Church, or Household of God in order. As we have learned, order in the Church flows from order in the family. This is a very simple principle to understand since most cultures are familiar with family structure. Even with this basic inherent knowledge, family order is a major problem in most churches today. Practically every problem in the Church is a result of a problem in the family. Therefore, it is imperative that this lesson pertaining to proper family order is clearly understood before moving on to order in the Church.

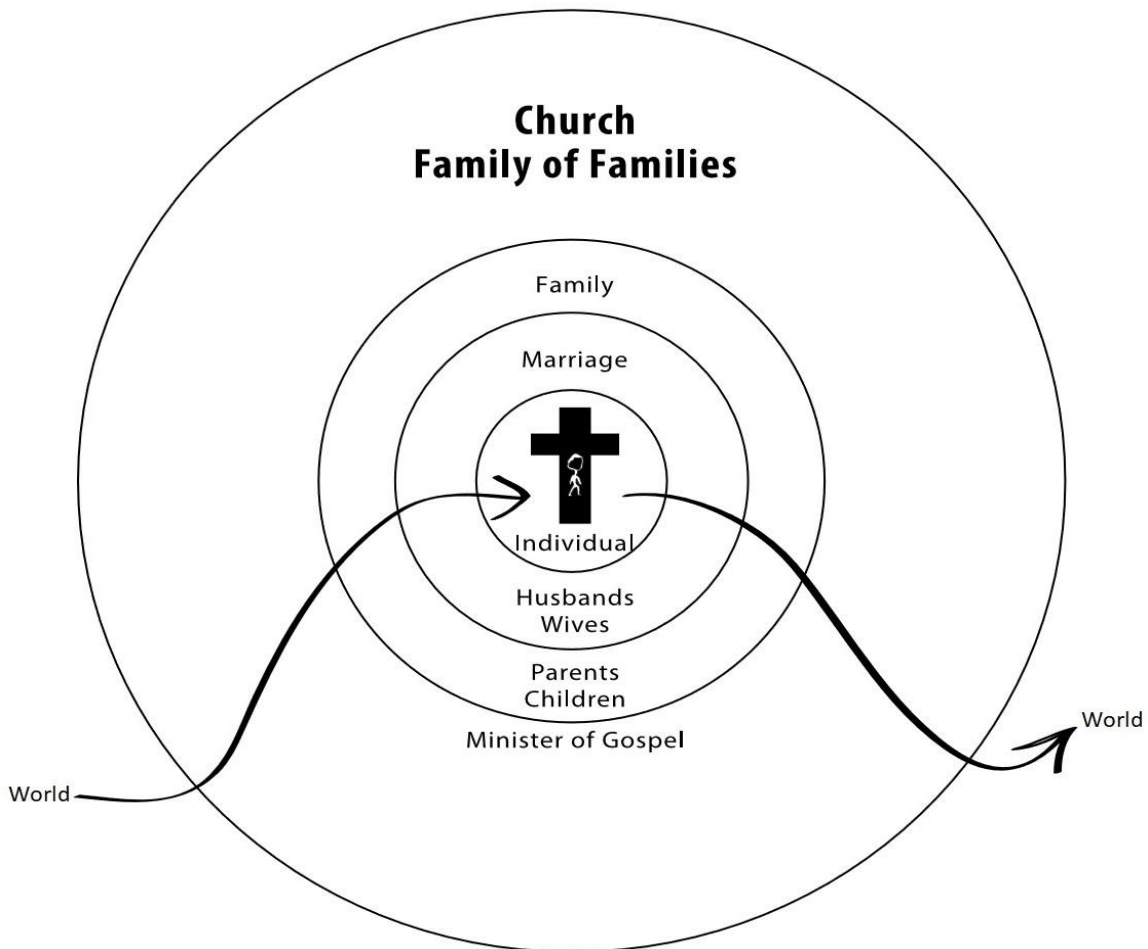
# Biblical Roles in the Church Family

## Lesson 34

### The Role of Ministers of the Gospel

The Word of God clearly defines the function of the minister of the gospel or apostle (with a little “a,” “sent one with a message”) in the Early Church and there is *no* biblical reason to think or act like this role ended in the first century. They were responsible for laying new foundations and repairing the old foundation of God’s household. This very important role has been diminished and hidden far too long, resulting in weak and stagnant churches.

**Note:** See supplements Apostle’s Ministry Assessment, Pages 203-204; Church Planter’s Ministry Described Biblically, Pages 205-208; Church Planter’s Financial Support, Pages 209-211.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about the role of ministers of the gospel.

**Acts 14:14-15** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 3:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 4:11-14 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 1:5-20 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 2:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_

Titus 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Timothy 2:15-26 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Timothy 4:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_

**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God's Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes) \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

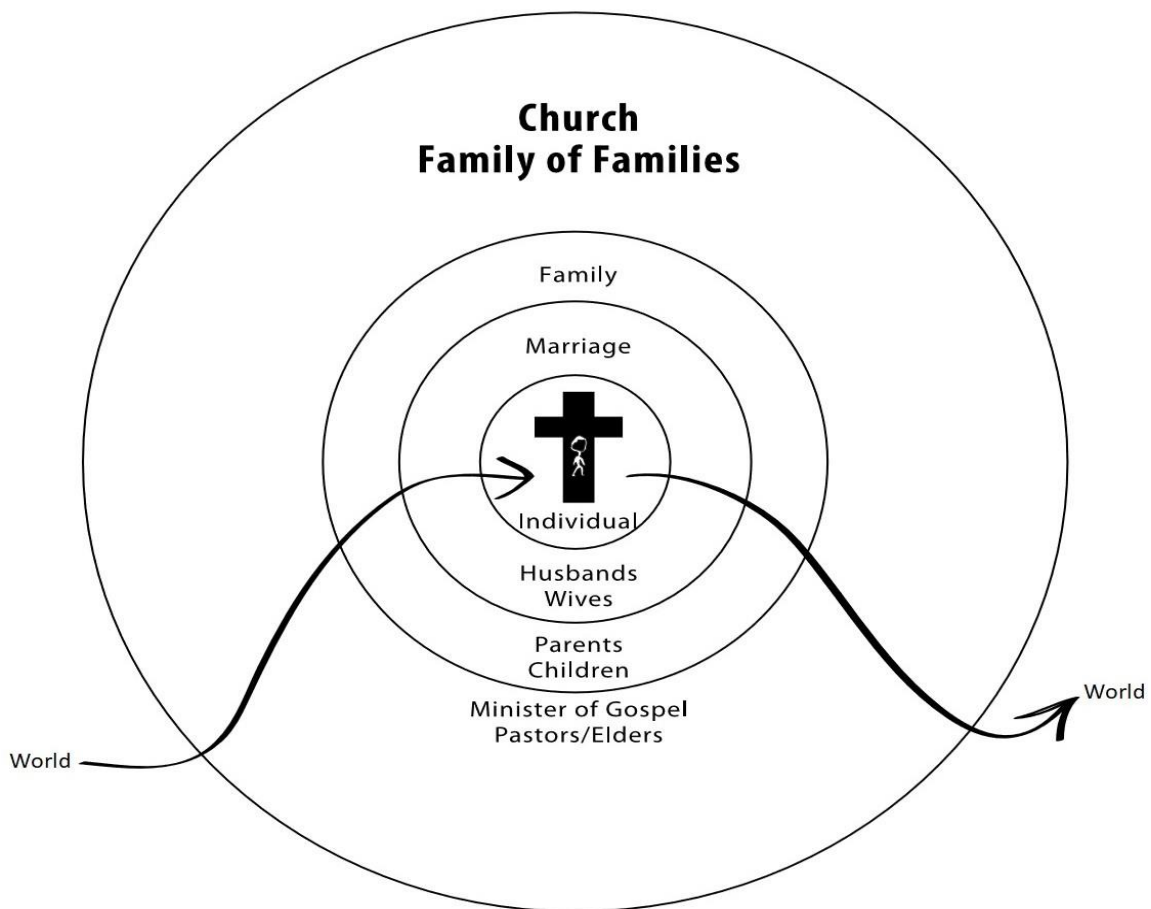
**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

## Lesson 35

# The Role of Pastors/Elders/Bishops/Overseers

The Word of God uses these words or terms interchangeably for the same function and role, which is to shepherd and oversee the flock or the household of God. These words are always used in the plural indicating that the norm was always more than one. They are shepherds under Christ the Great Shepherd, and their qualifications and authority to rule the Church come from the Word of God.

**Note:** See Supplement Qualifications for Pastors/Elders - Assessment, Page 212.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about the role of Pastors/Elders/Bishops/Overseers.

**Ezekiel 34:1-31** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Titus 1:5

Acts 20:17-38

1 Timothy 3:1-7

1 Timothy 5:17-20

Titus 1:5-9

Hebrews 13:7

1 Peter 5:1-4

**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God's Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes)

**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

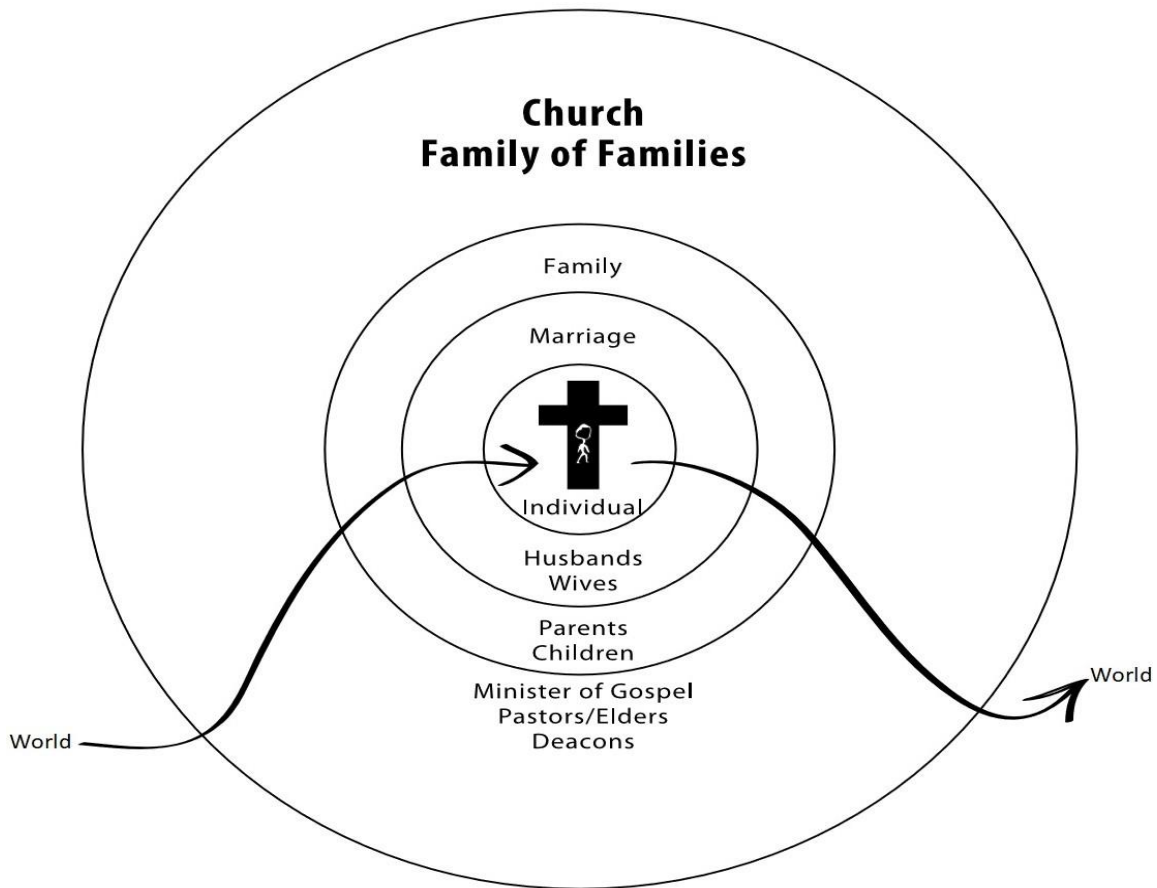
**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

## Lesson 36

# The Role of Deacons

The Word of God defines the role and function of deacons as servants who are involved in the cultural, temporal and material service of the Church under the rule of the elders. Since their service reflects the elders who reflect Christ, deacons need to be qualified according to the Word of God.

**Note:** See Supplement Qualifications for Deacons - Assessment, Page 215.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about the role of Deacons.

**Acts 6:1-7**

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**Romans 16:1** \_\_\_\_\_

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**1 Timothy 3:8-13** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Titus 1:5** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God’s Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

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What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

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**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

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# Biblical Roles in the Church Family

## Lesson 37

### Roles of Men and Women

Today's culture has redefined the roles of men and women in the family and Church into a model that is contrary to the Word of God. As you hear God speak, you will observe the sacred beauty of God's design, and equality for men and women in the family and Church.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about the roles of men and women.

Luke 2:36-38 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 1:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2:17; 21:9 \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 3:28 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 11:1-16 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 14:26-40 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 5:21-6:4 \_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 4:2-3 \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 3:18-4:1

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1 Timothy 2:8-14

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1 Timothy 3:4-5

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1 Timothy 5:9-15

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Titus 2:3-5

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**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God's Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes)

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**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

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What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

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**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

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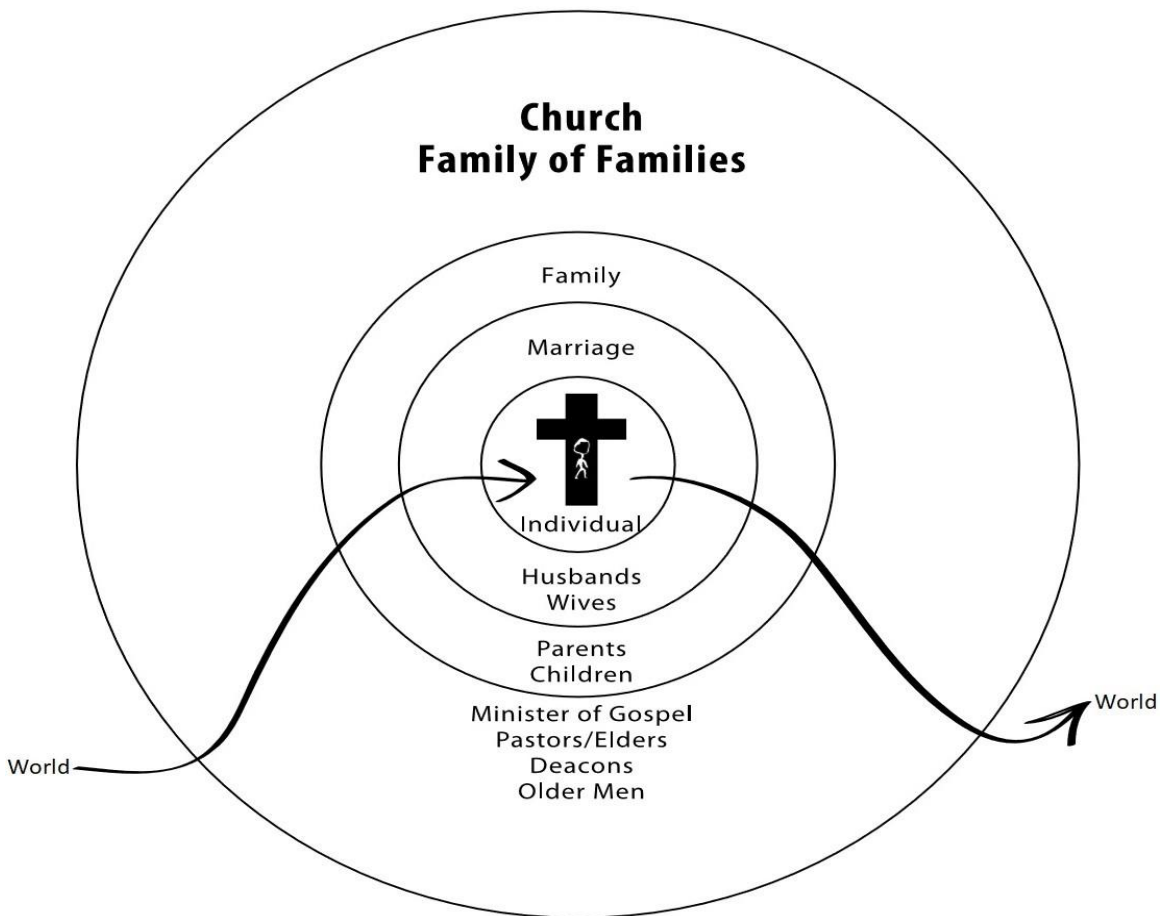
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## Lesson 38

# The Role of Older Men

The Word of God supports the important role of older men in the Early Church and exhorts them to live a life of self-control, sound faith and steadfastness. They also have a very important function in teaching younger men by word and example. In the Old Testament, older men were referred to as elders and were to be respected for their wisdom.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about the role of older men.

**Psalm 148:12-13** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 20:27-29** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2:17 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
1 Timothy 5:1 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Titus 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Titus 2:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Titus 3:8-11 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
1 Peter 5:1-5 \_\_\_\_\_

Meditation: Based on these verses, write a summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God's Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Discussion: Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

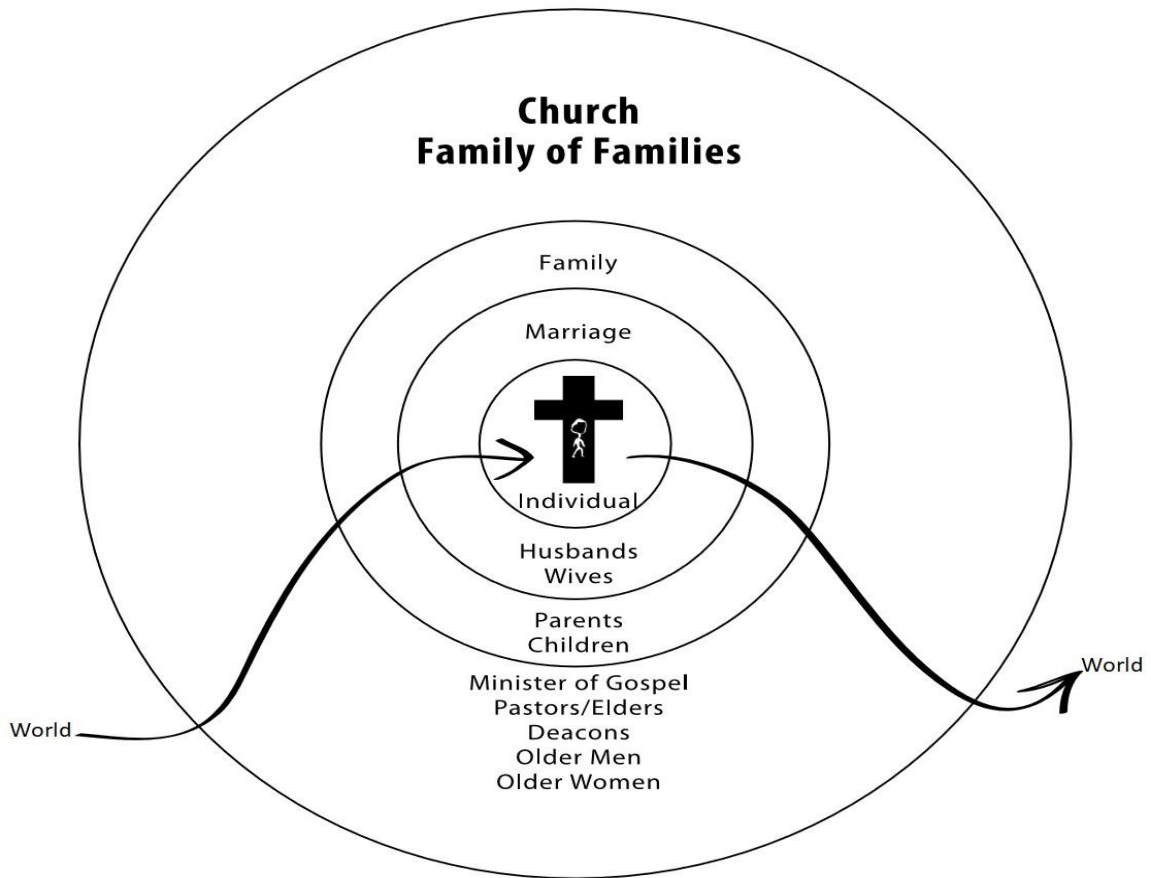
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What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Application: How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

Lesson 39

# The Role of Older Women

The important role of older women in the Word of God clearly supports the important role of women in the Early Church, especially in their service for Christ, Paul and the apostles. They also have a very important role in teaching younger women by word and example. Some of these women were probably widows who were serving as deaconesses which enabled them to be more devoted in serving the Church.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about the role of older women.

1 Timothy 5:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Titus 1:5**

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**Titus 2:3-5**

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**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God’s Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes)

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**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

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What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

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**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

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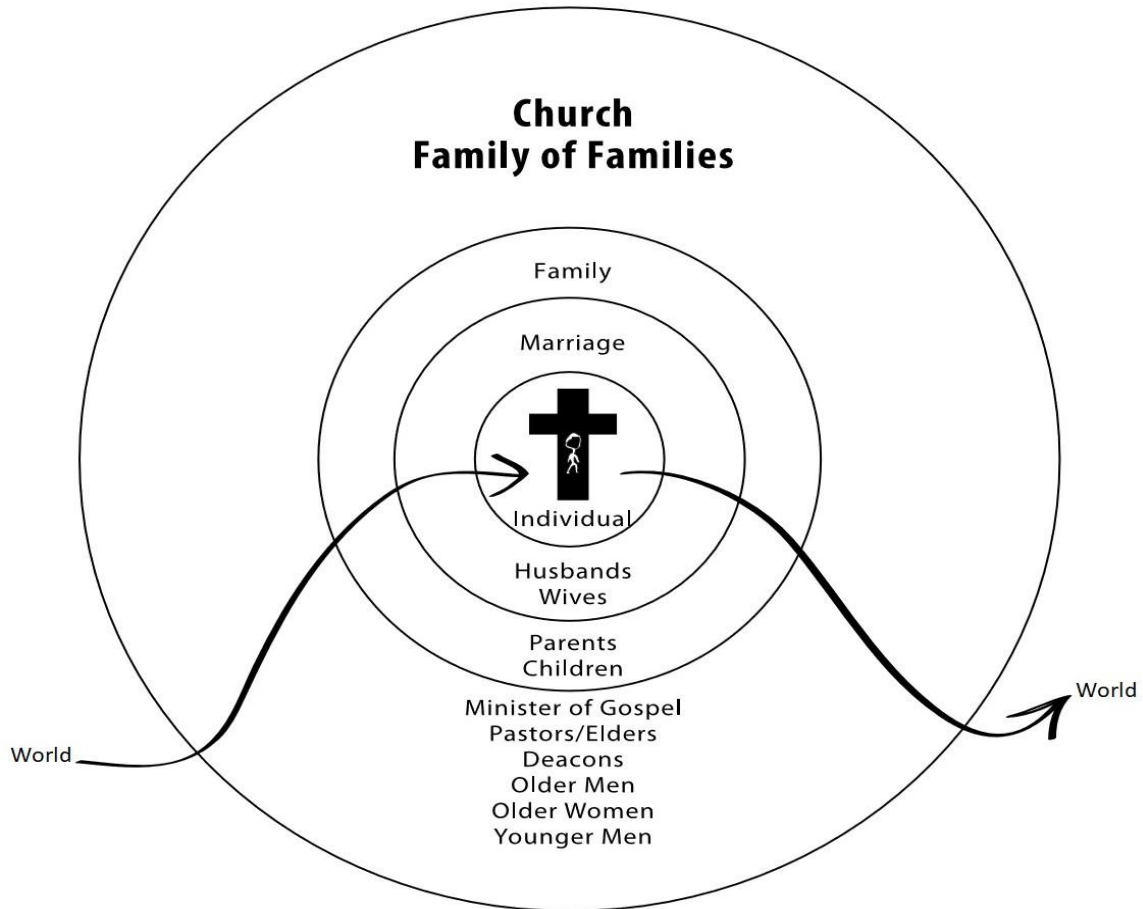
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*Biblical Roles in the Church Family*

**Lesson 40**

**The Role of Younger Men**

The Word of God clearly defines the role and responsibility of young men in the family of God. Today many young men are not serving and older men are retiring from service, but God declares they both have very important roles and functions within the Church. Younger men are to learn from older men.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about the role of younger men.

**Psalm 119:9-16** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 20:27-29** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2:17 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
1 Timothy 5:1 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Titus 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Titus 2:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
1 Peter 5:5 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
1 John 2:12-17 \_\_\_\_\_

Meditation: Based on these verses, write a summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God's Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Discussion: Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

\_\_\_\_\_  
What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

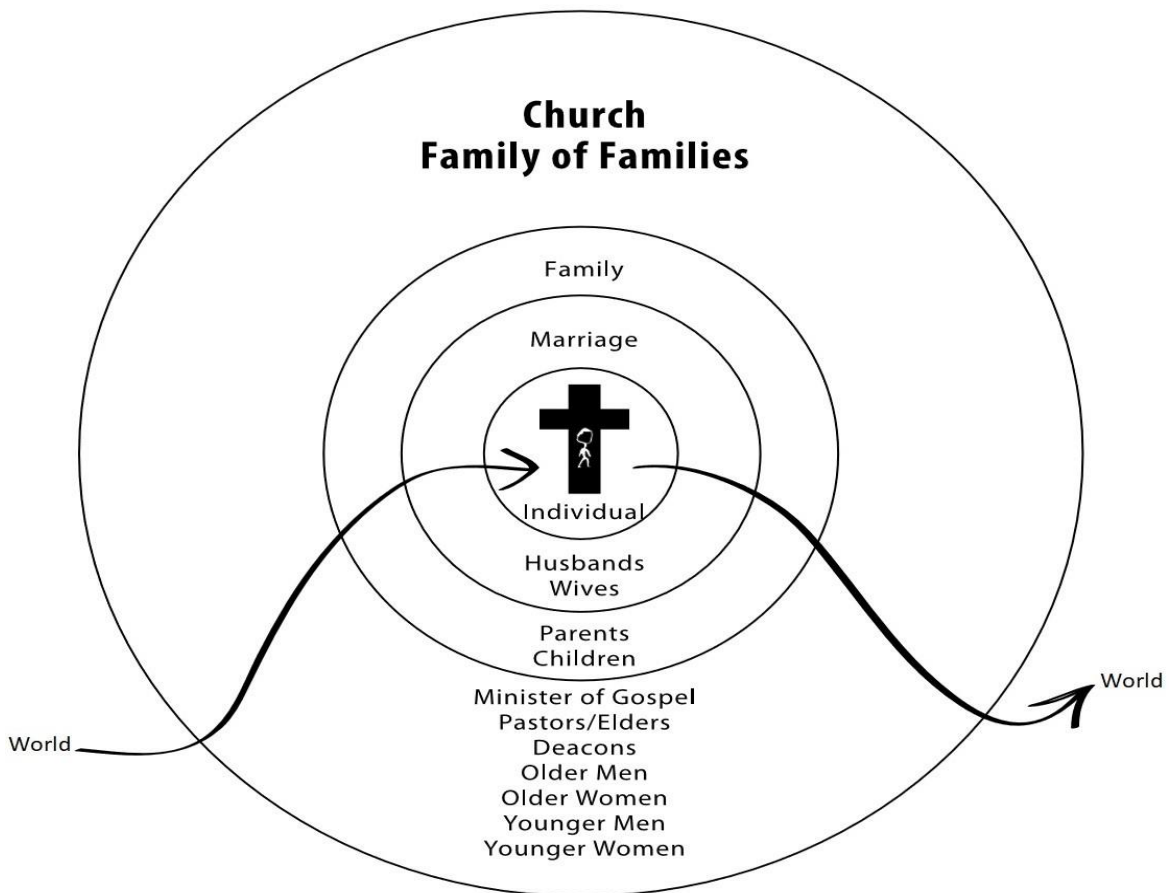
\_\_\_\_\_  
Application: How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

# Biblical Roles in the Church Family

## Lesson 41

### The Role of Younger Women

The Word of God clearly defines the role and responsibility of young women in the family of God. Today many young women are leaving the Church and older women are retiring from service, but God declares they both have very important roles and functions within the Body of Christ. Younger women are to learn from older women so they can become mature wives and godly mothers.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about the role of younger women.

**Psalm 119:9-16** \_\_\_\_\_

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**1 Timothy 5:1-2**

**Titus 1:5**

**Titus 2:1-5**

**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God's Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes)

**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

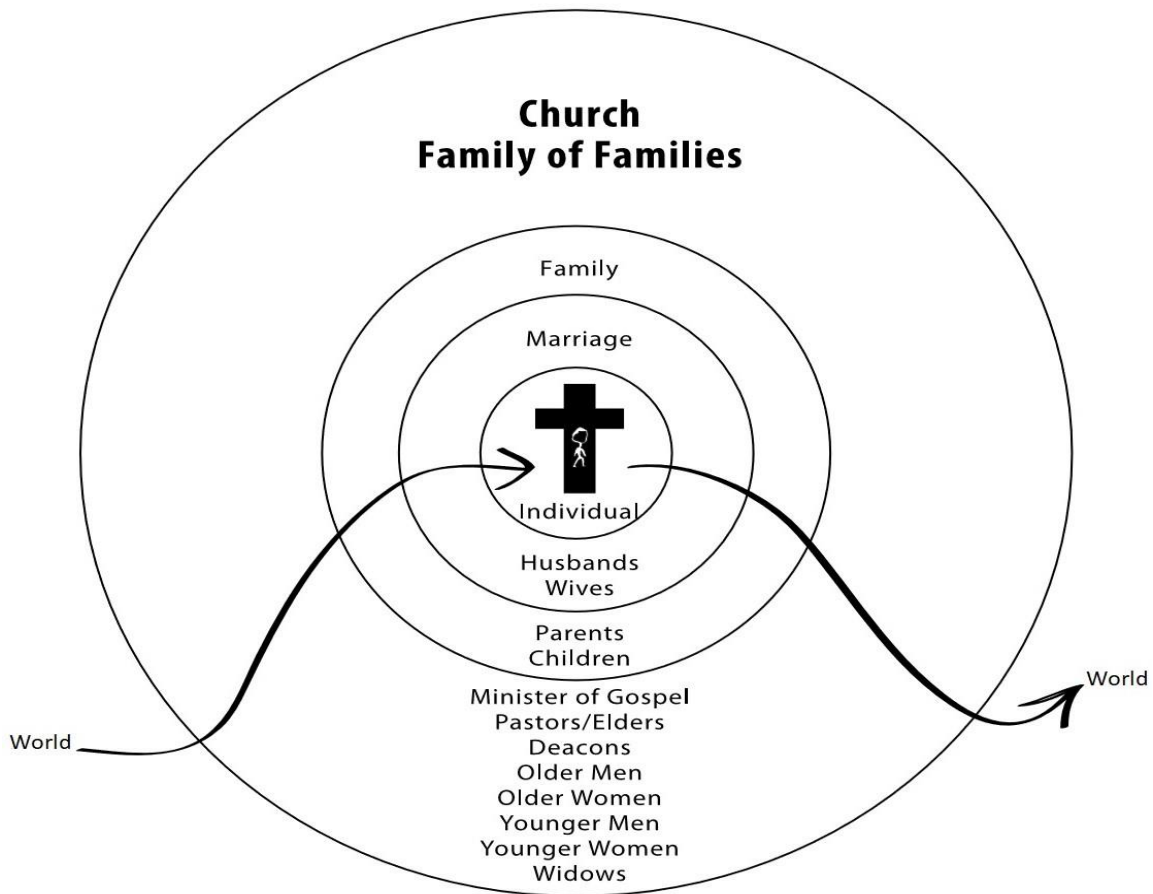
**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

# Biblical Roles in the Church Family

## Lesson 42

### The Role of Widows

You will probably learn more from the Word of God about widows than any other role. Their role and function is tremendously important to the household of God. They were probably deaconesses or servants in the Early Church who were involved in serving the apostles and elders. Their qualifications and responsibilities are very important to the Church as you will learn from the Word of God.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about the role of widows.

**Luke 21:1-4** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 6:1** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**1 Corinthians 7:39-40**

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**1 Timothy 5:1-16**

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**Titus 1:5**

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**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God's Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes)

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**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

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What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

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**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

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*Biblical Roles in the Church Family*

**Project I**

**Setting the Church in Order**

1. Beside each role in the Church below, summarize the responsibilities within the family of families.

**Ministers of the Gospel (Messengers or Apostles):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Pastors/Elders/Bishops (Shepherds or Overseers):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Deacons (Servants):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Older Men (Fathers):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Older Women (Mothers):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Younger Men (Sons):** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Younger Women (Daughters):** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

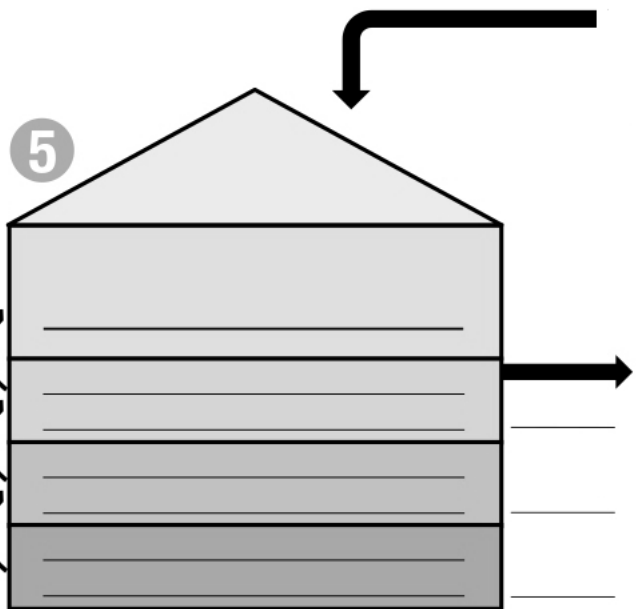
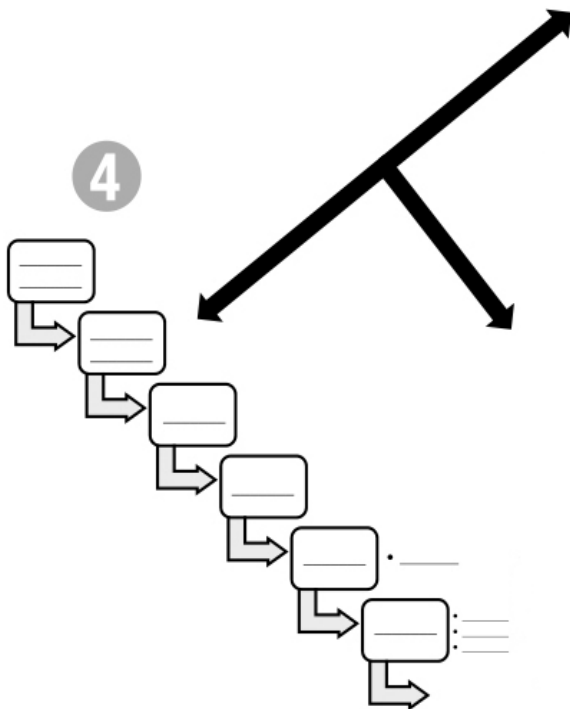
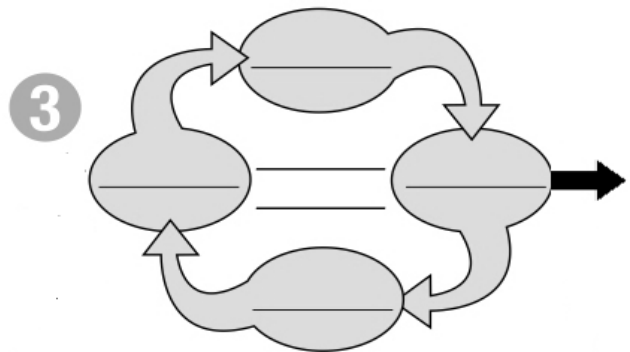
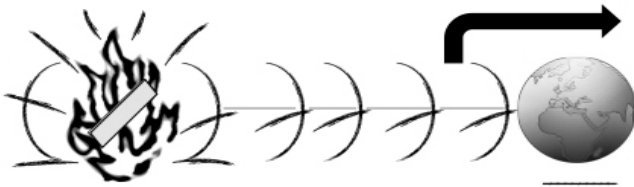
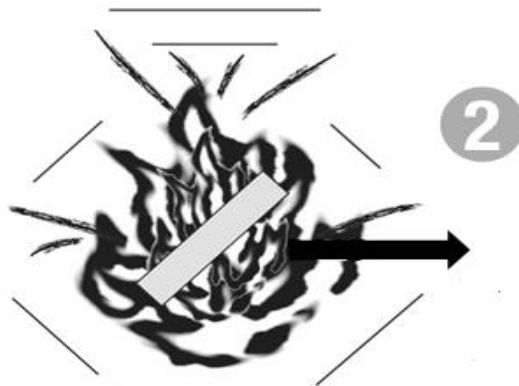
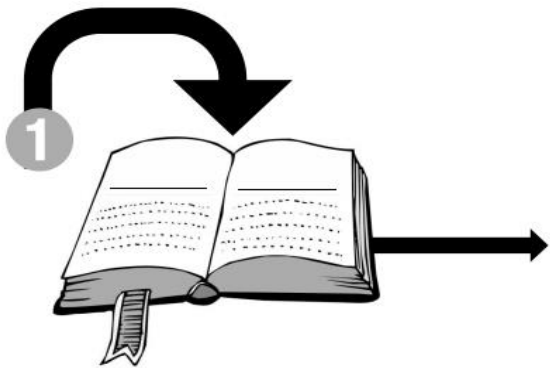
**Widows (Women Servants):** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Compare your church with your answers above in (1). Where does your church need to change? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

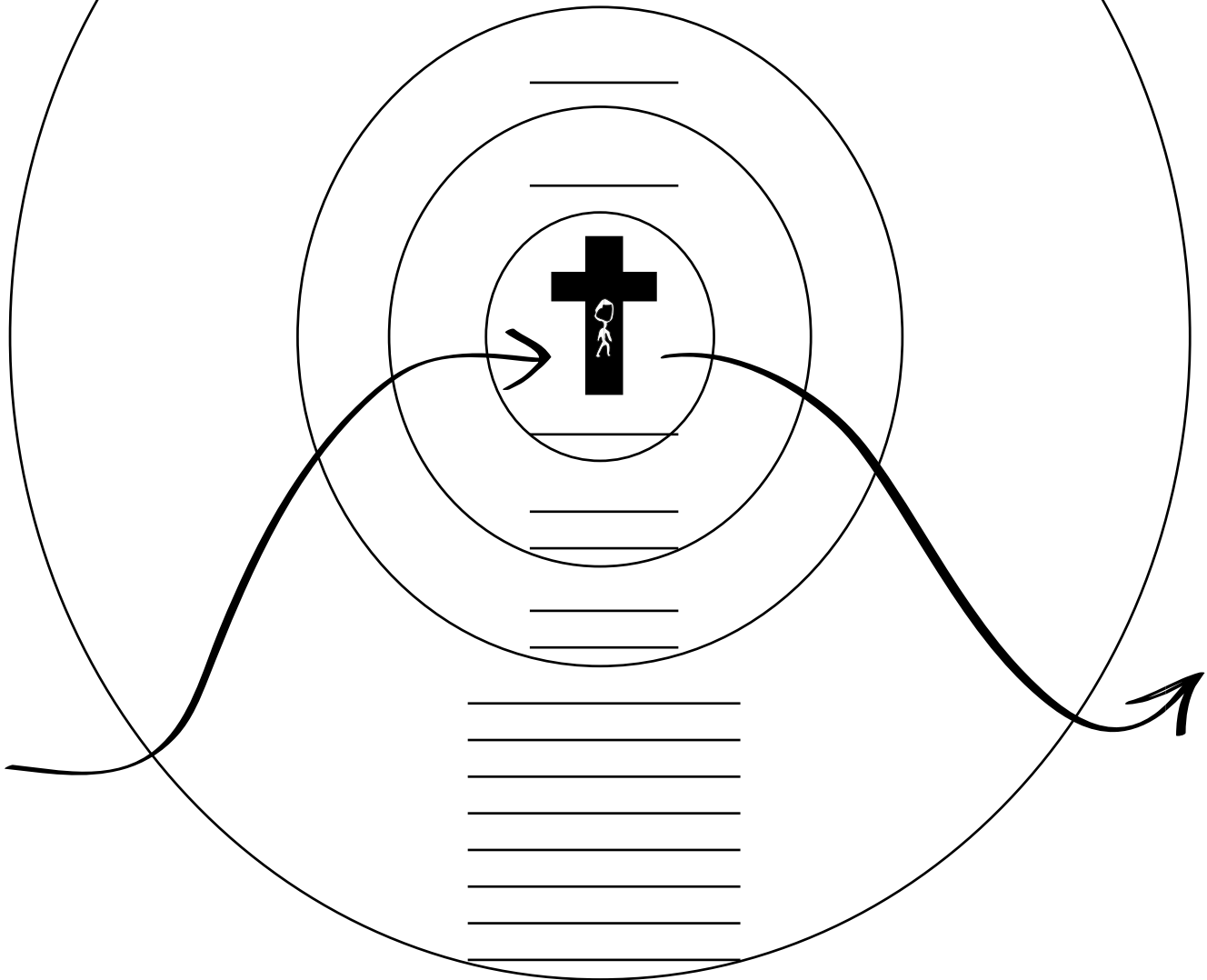
3. What can you do to help make that happen? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Write a brief strategy of your role and responsibility in your church family.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Review Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 and fill in the blanks before going to 7. (If you need more room to write, use the blank areas).



# Church Family of Families

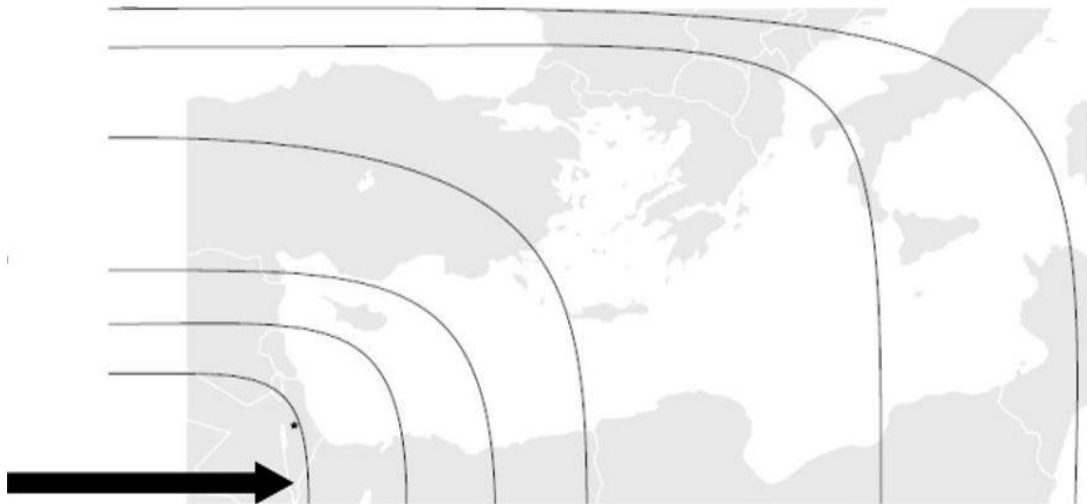
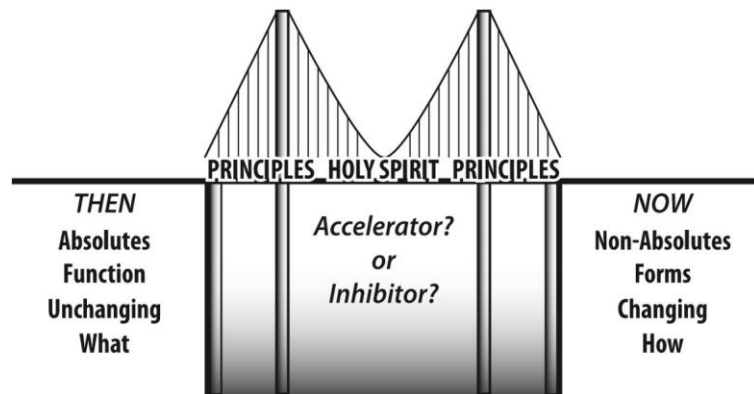




# Chapter 7

## *Our Challenge*

# Develop a Church Planting and Renewal Strategy

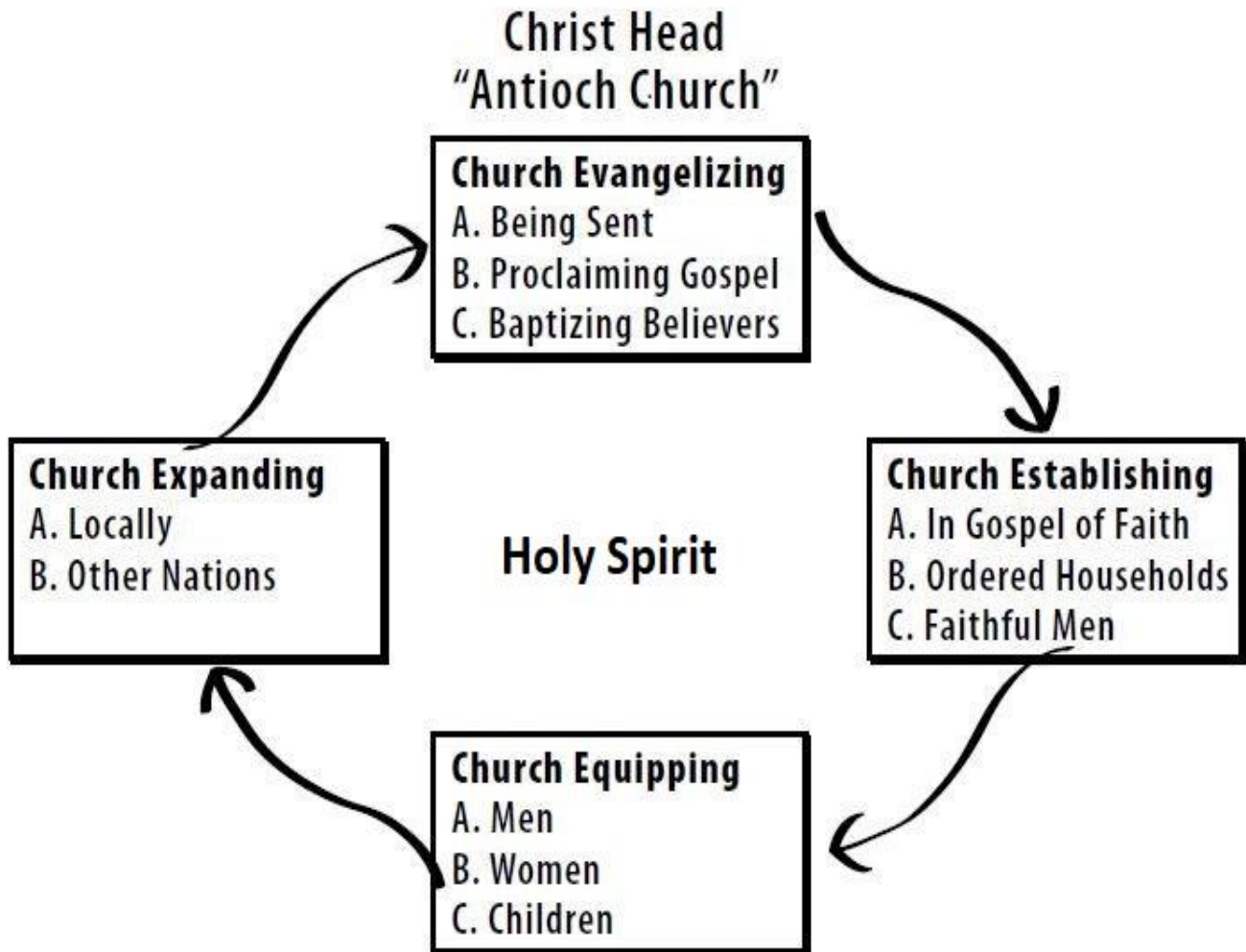


Our Challenge: Now, using supra-cultural timeless principles you have learned from God's Word, develop your own church planting and renewal strategy. To help you better understand, take a close look at the above bridge that shows how to connect the "then" absolutes or functions with the "now" non-absolutes or forms. Sometimes, absolutes or functions will be used in the "now".

## Project J

# Design Your Own Church Planting and Renewal Strategy

*Use Supra-Cultural Timeless Principles to Connect the “Then” with your “Now.” To help you understand, look at the following Antioch Model Church again:*



Take another careful look at the bridge diagram on the previous page. Now, using the timeless and supra-cultural principles outlined below which you have studied and learned in the previous 6 chapters, design a strategy for fully establishing a church from start to finish in your situation and culture. In other words, in the blank lines below, answer the questions pertaining to the key outlined principles. Remember, this is how you personally sense God is leading you to apply His Plan for His Church. Pray and seek the Holy Spirit's guidance as you apply these principles.

# I. Church Evangelizing

## A. Being Sent

1. How will I be sent? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who will send me? \_\_\_\_\_
3. When will I be sent? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Where will I be sent? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## B. Proclaiming the Gospel

1. How will I proclaim the Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who will I proclaim the Gospel to? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When will I proclaim the Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where will I proclaim the Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## C. Baptizing Believers

**Note:** See Supplement Water Baptism, page 190.

1. How will I baptize? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who will I baptize? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When will I baptize? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where will I baptize? \_\_\_\_\_

## ***II. Church Establishing***

### **A. In the Gospel of Grace**

1. How will I establish believers in the Gospel of Grace? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Who will I establish in the Gospel of Grace? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. When will I establish them in the Gospel of Grace? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Where will I establish them in the Gospel of Grace? \_\_\_\_\_

### **B. In the Purpose and Eternal Plan of God**

1. How will I establish the believers in the purpose and plan of God? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Who will I establish in the purpose and plan of God? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. When will I establish them in the purpose and plan of God? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Where will I establish them in the purpose and plan of God? \_\_\_\_\_

### **C. Ordered Households**

1. How will I put the households in order? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Who will put the households in order? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. When will I put the household in order? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Where will I put the household in order? \_\_\_\_\_

### **D. Faithful Men**

1. How will I develop faithful men and women? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



2. Who will I develop? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When will I develop faithful men and women? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where will I develop faithful men and women? \_\_\_\_\_

### ***III. Church Equipping***

#### **A. Men**

1. How will I equip men for the ministry? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who will I equip for the ministry? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When will I equip men for the ministry? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where will I equip men for the ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **B. Women**

1. How will I equip women for the ministry? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who will I equip for the ministry? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When will I equip women for the ministry? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where will I equip women for the ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **C. Children**

1. How will I equip children? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who will equip the children? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When will I equip the children? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where will I equip the children? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## IV. Church Expanding

### A. Locally

1. How will the church expand locally? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

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2. Who will expand the church locally? \_\_\_\_\_

---

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3. When will I expand locally? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Where will I expand locally? \_\_\_\_\_

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### B. Other Nations (people groups)

1. How will the church expand to other people groups? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Who will expand the church to other people groups? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. When will I expand to other people groups? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Where will I expand to other people groups? \_\_\_\_\_

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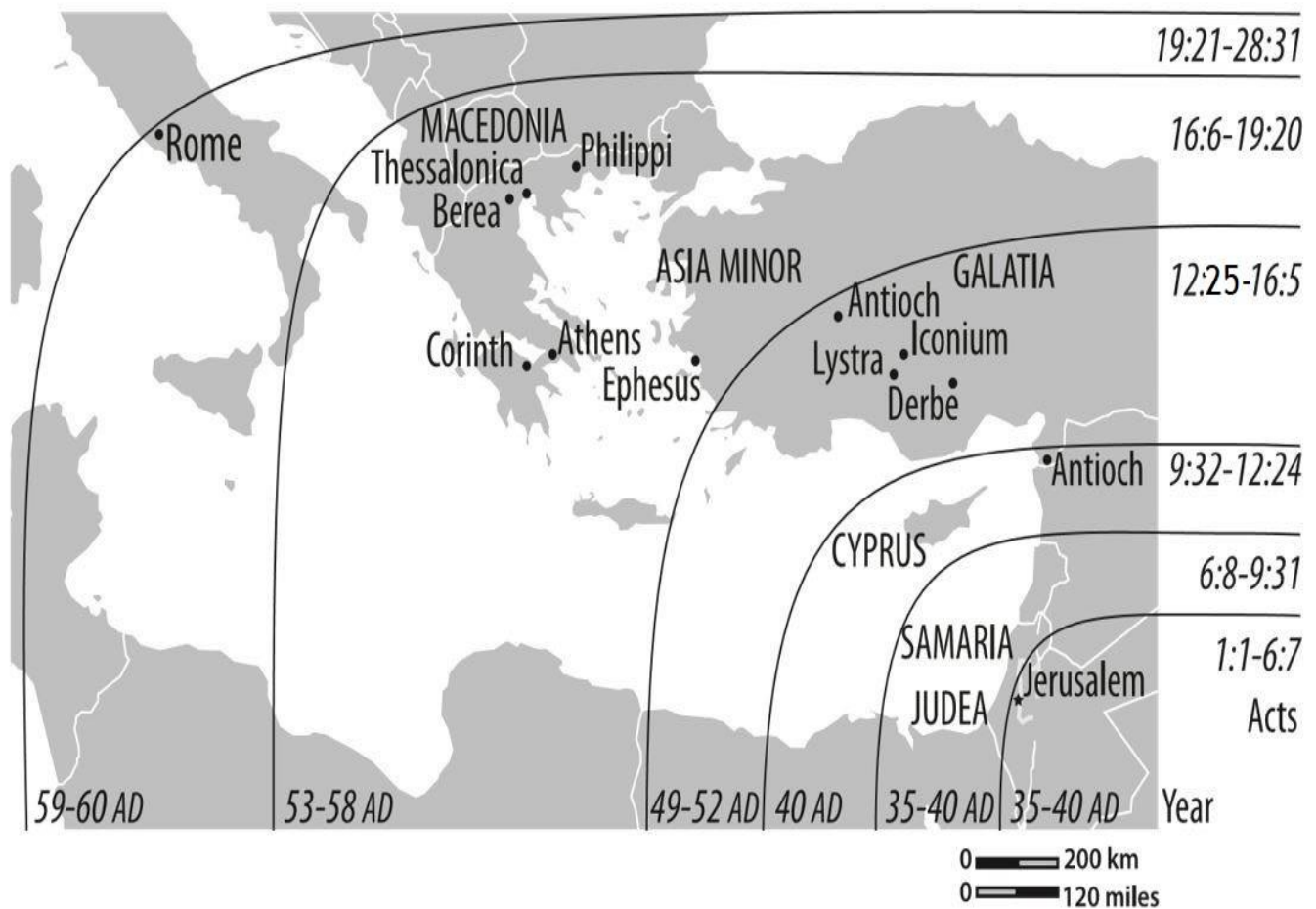
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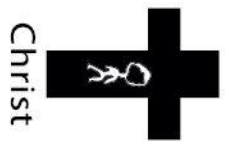
## Project K

### Ten-Year Church Planting and Church Renewal Strategy

Using your new personal strategy, develop and chart a ten-year chronological and geographical strategy. If applicable, you can add people groups in your strategy. Of course, this strategy is subject to the authority of Christ, who is the Sovereign Head of the Church, and to the Holy Spirit's direction. As you know, the Holy Spirit would often change Paul's strategic plans (Acts 16:1-10); most likely, sovereign events in Paul's life changed his plan to go to Spain (Romans 15:24, 28). Your strategy will reflect the outline from Project J. The map on the next page is for you to chart your ten-year church planting and/or church renewal strategy. Your area of interest may not be on this map, so try to acquire a map that specifically reflects where you are confident God is calling you to expend your energies. To help guide you, see the map below that shows the progress of the Early Church. Of course, the places and dates will change depending on where God is directing your focus and the timeline He confirms. Chart your own plan on page 180.

### Chart Your Ten-Year Church Planting and/or Renewal Strategy





Christ

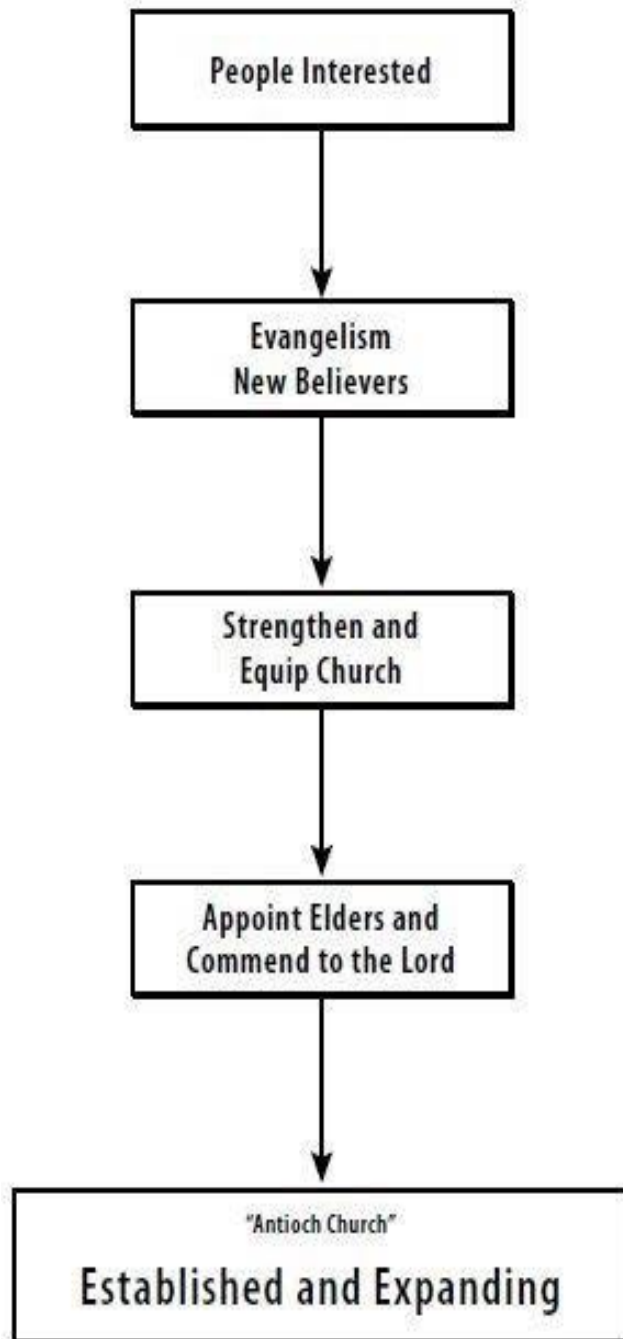
Marriage

Family

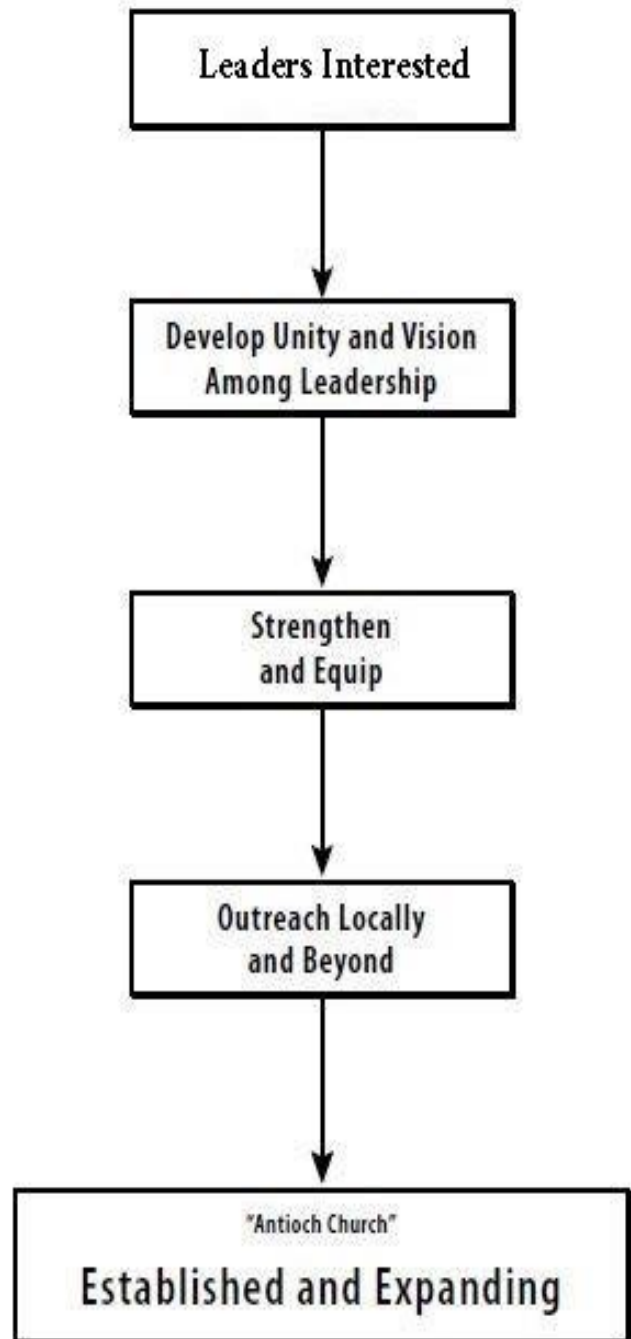
Antioch Church

*Below are two simplified skeleton outlines, one for starting new churches and one for renewing and establishing existing churches.*

### Starting New Churches



### Renewing Existing Churches



# God's Plan for His Church

*"God's Way with God's Truth"*

This Certifies that

\_\_\_\_\_

Has completed the Church Planting and Renewal Manual using

God's timeless, supra-cultural principles to develop a strategy for

**E**vangeling, **E**stablishing, **E**quipping and **E**xpanding

local churches for God's glory.

\_\_\_\_\_

New Foundations International

\_\_\_\_\_

Local Church Leader

*"I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of Him will see, and those who have never heard will understand." Romans 15:20-21*

# God's Plan for His Church

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## Supplements and Resources

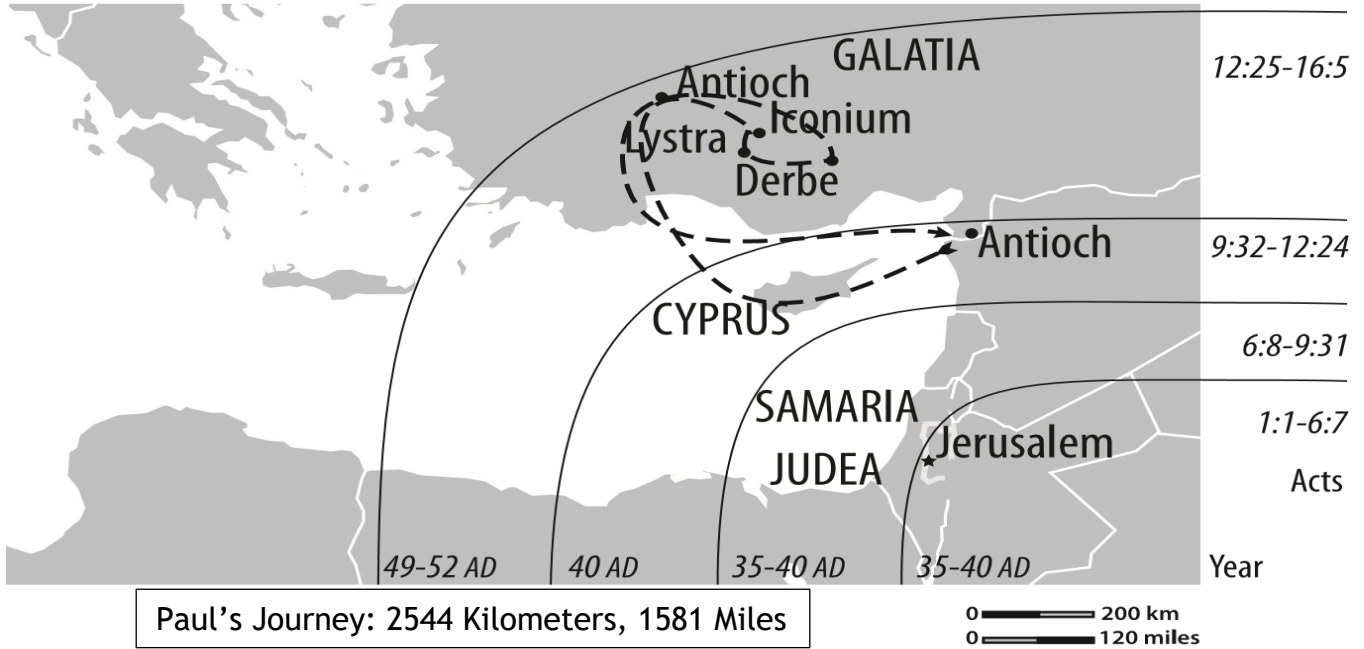
*To develop further understanding in the rich biblical principles that plant strong churches and renew existing churches*

Contents:	Page
• Paul's First Missionary Journey	184
• Paul's Second Missionary Journey	184
• Paul's Third Missionary Journey	185
• Paul's Journey to Rome	185
• How to Study the Bible	186
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# Paul's First Missionary Journey

Referred to in Chapter 1, Page 16; Chapter 5, Page 91.

Acts 13:4 - 14:28 • A.D. 46-48



➔ Indicates the route Paul took on all his journeys.

# Paul's Second Missionary Journey

Referred to in Chapter 1, Page 16; Chapter 5, Page 91.

Acts 15:39 - 18:22 • A.D. 49-52

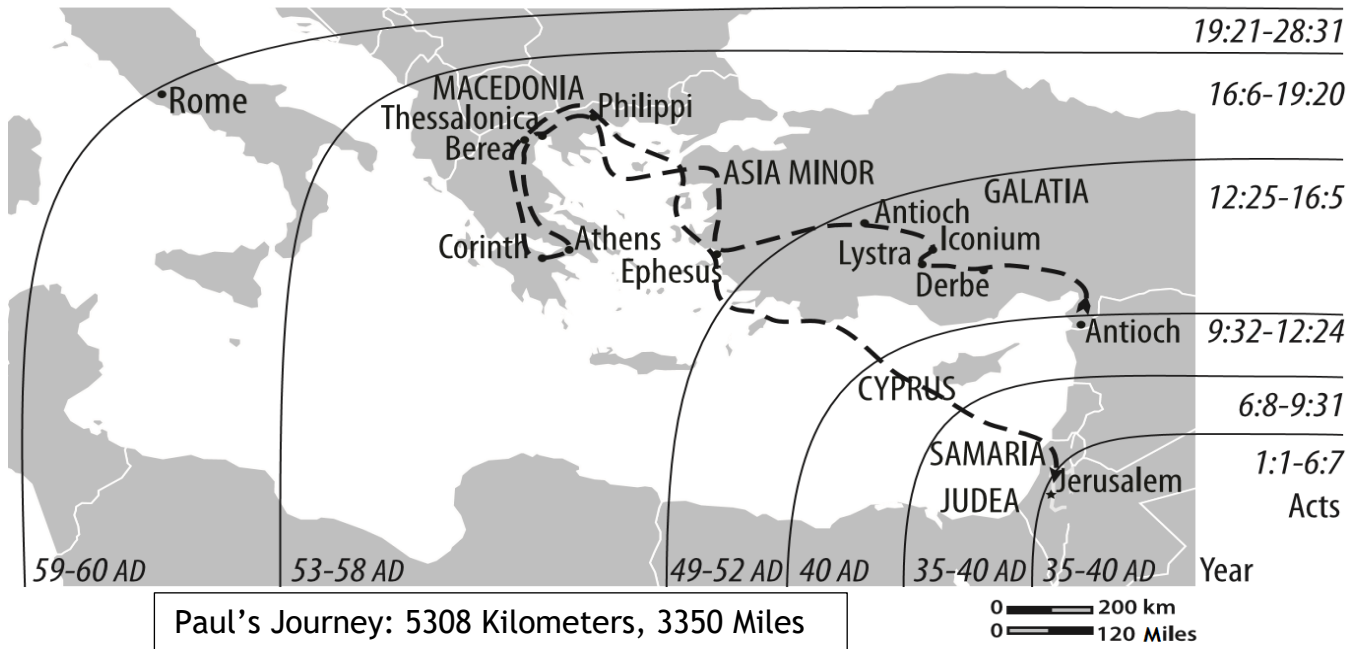




# Paul's Third Missionary Journey

Referred to in Chapter 1, Page 16; Chapter 5, Page 91.

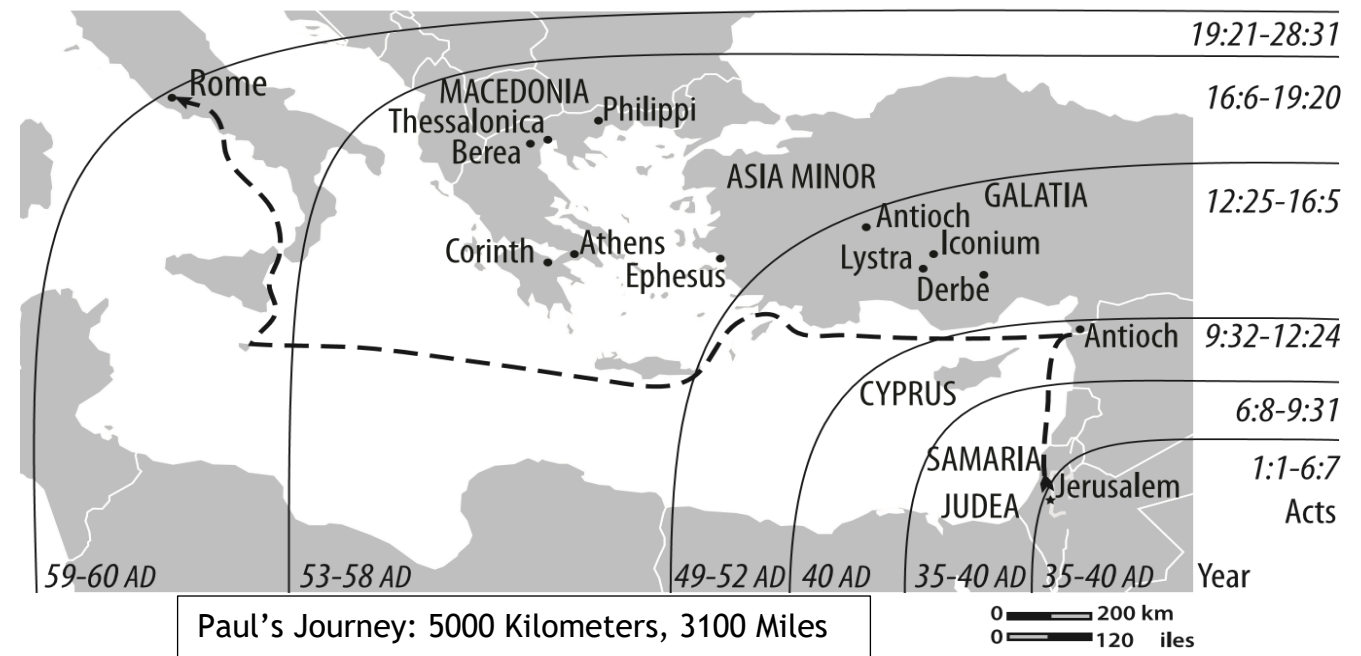
Acts 18:23 - 21:17 • A.D. 53-57



# Paul's Journey to Rome

Referred to in Chapter 1, Page 16; Chapter 5, Page 91.

Acts 27:1 - 28:16 • A.D. 59-60



# How to Study the Bible (Referred to Page vi, Page 24 and Page 34)

(As an example, see the format used by the Ethiopian Eunuch and Philip in Acts 8:26-38).

## 1 - OBSERVATION - “LOOK AT IT” - What does it say?

- Discover what the Bible says.
- Pray the **Holy Spirit** will help you see it.

**Observation** is the basic key to understanding God’s Word; it is fixing your heart, mind and attention on a passage of Scripture or a verse and the context around that verse. Observation is spending time in looking for what is God saying, what is happening in this passage and what is God’s intended message for the hearers. It will be helpful to read the passage several times. Then in your own words write down your observations.

(Example) **Observation:** Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (Also read and observe verses 10-17 to understand the context of verses 16 & 17). Write down some key observations of what Paul is saying about the Scripture.

*In Paul's final letter, he tells Timothy to follow his teaching and life because his teaching and life is based on Scripture which is breathed out by God. Thus, Paul says that all Scripture is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness. Paul wants Timothy to know that Scripture is able to equip a man of God completely.*

## 2 - MEDITATION - “THINK ABOUT IT” - What does it mean?

- Discover what the Bible means.
- Pray the **Holy Spirit** will help you understand it.

**Meditation on Scripture** helps you to understand its meaning. This is what we call **interpretation**. To interpret means to explain the meaning of what you have observed. One way to do this is to think about what the author intends the readers to understand from what is written. Understanding what the passage meant to the original author and readers helps you to understand its true message.

Another way to understand the meaning of the passage you’re reading is to compare it with other Scriptures that might deal with the same message.

(Example) **Meditation:** Based on 2 Timothy 3:16-17, write a summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God’s Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture.

*This means that God's Word is the very Word of God, breathed out by God. It is all that is needed to completely train and equip a man of God by teaching, reproof, correcting and training to live a righteous life. To empower our teaching we must live a life that reflects what we teach. I will continue in what I learned and believe so others will follow and endure in persecutions and sufferings.*

### 3 - DISCUSSION - “TALK ABOUT IT” - What do others say?

- Discover what others are saying.
- Pray the **Holy Spirit** will help you learn from others.

**Discussion** among individuals is the oldest and still one of the most powerful teaching tactics used to draw out ideas and challenge presumptions by asking and answering questions. Discussion was used by the Early Church to challenge each other's life and ministry. Discuss what are the timeless and supra-cultural key principles in the passage? How is this relevant today? And what do you think God is saying to you, your family and church? This becomes the means by which you can put what God says into action.

For example, ask questions and summarize your answers. Why do you think some people teach one thing yet live differently? Why do people think they must add something to the Word of God to completely train a man of God? How can we help others continue in the Word of God and not give up when faced with persecution and suffering?

(Example) **Discuss your key principles and functions (Meditations) with others.**

**Discussion:** Contrast these principles you learned from 2 Timothy 3:16-17 with your life, family and church experience today.

*It does not require the Holy Spirit and obedience to just teach the Word. We cannot accept that the Bible alone is enough; it is too easy, so we add other teachings to our teaching. By reading and doing the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit, we keep a commitment to a church family.*

What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

*I need to make sure my conduct and my teaching agree. I must teach the Scriptures with all authority while recognizing the sufficiency of God's Word in my life. Lord renew my confidence in being able to completely train and equip others by your Word alone.*

### 4 - APPLICATION - “LIVE IT - DO IT” - Now what?

- Discover how the Bible works.
- Pray the **Holy Spirit** will help you do it.

(Example) **Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

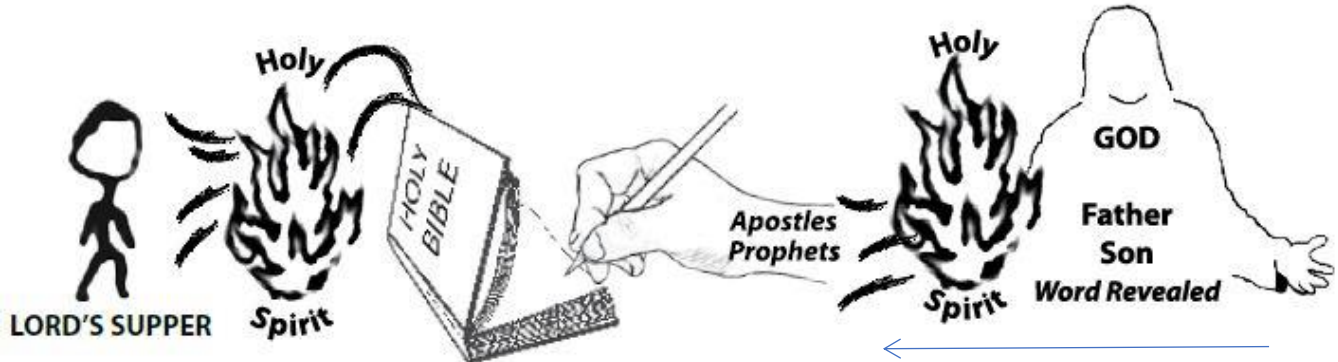
*Lord, right now I yield myself to the indwelling Spirit so He can help me discover and understand what your Word is saying to me. Lord, I submit myself to the Word of God; teach me, reprove me, correct me and train me in righteousness so I can use your Word to fully equip others. I also want to be careful to listen to others and to be more teachable. Then by faith I will live and teach with authority the sufficiency of Your Word to my family and church.*

(Try It) Study Ezra 7:8-10 by using these 4 steps: 1 - **Observation** (Look at it), 2 - **Meditation** (Think about it), 3 - **Discussion** (Talk about it) and 4 - **Application** (Do it).

# Lord's Supper

Referred to in Chapter 1, Page 18; Chapter 6, Page 135.

Tradition and routine have sucked the life and heart out of the celebration of the Lord's Supper. In this memorial observance, we are instructed to symbolically partake of the bread (His body - who He is) and the cup (His blood - what He did) in remembrance with sincere thankfulness, serious self-examination, and brotherly love until He comes.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about the Lord's Supper.

Exodus 12:1-30 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 26:17-30 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mark 14:22-26 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Luke 22:7-20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2:42-47 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 20:7, 11 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 11:17-34 \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 3:15-20 \_\_\_\_\_

**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a brief summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God’s Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes) \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

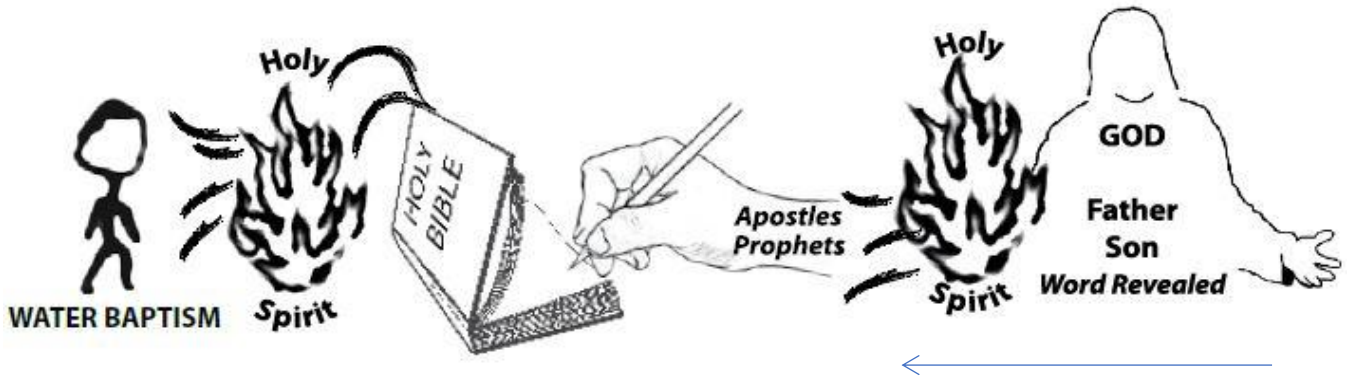
What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

# Water Baptism

Referred to in Chapter 1, Page 18; Chapter 7, Page 175.

Baptism is an outward rite instituted by Christ to be administered by the church. It shows a visual picture of one's spiritual baptism at the time of salvation. Baptism is an act of obedience to the Lord's command and no special grace is granted, although obedience to this command is evident of one's growth in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about water baptism.

Matthew 3:11-17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 10:32-33 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 28:19-20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mark 1:9-10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Luke 3:1-22 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

John 3:23 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2:41 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 8:12-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 8:36-39 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 16:31-34 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 18:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 6:3-11 \_\_\_\_\_

**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a brief summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God’s Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes) \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

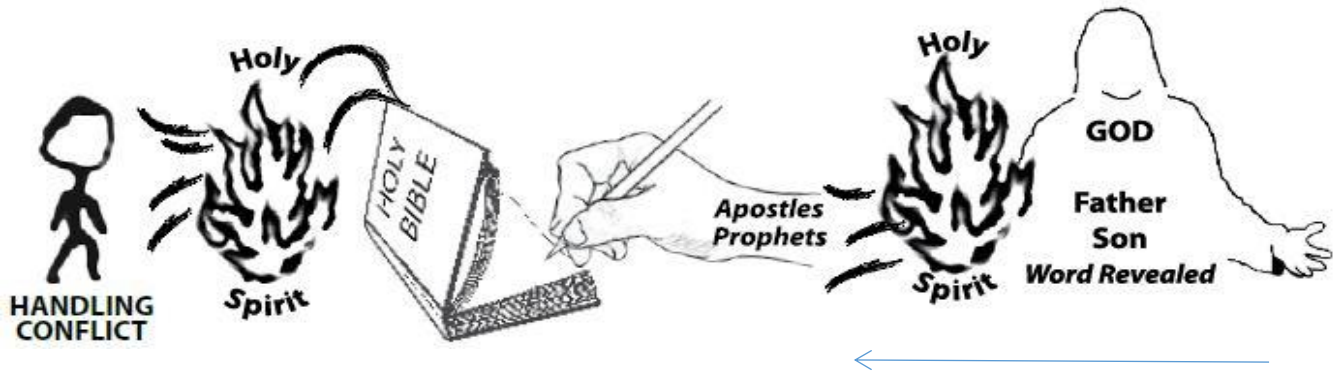
What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

# Handling Conflict

Referred to in Chapter 5, Page 122.

The lack of power and impact in today's churches can be directly contributed to their failure to address conflict and sin in the Church, the Bride of Christ. Obeying the Scriptures on handling conflict can reestablish power, unity, purity, renewal and testimony within the Body of Christ for His glory. (Note: See Chart at end of this lesson for help in handling conflict.)



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about handling conflict.

Matthew 18:15-18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 15:1-41 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 2:1-14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 5:12-6:5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2 Thessalonians 3:5-16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 5:1-6:11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2 Corinthians 2:1-14; 7:5-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Philippians 4:2-7** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Timothy 5:19-22** \_\_\_\_\_

**Titus 1:9-16** \_\_\_\_\_

**Titus 3:9-11** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Timothy 2:14-16** \_\_\_\_\_

**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a brief summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God’s Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes) \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

## General Guidelines

*Purity of the Bride, Unity of the Body*

Gentleness (Gal. 6:1)

Forgive (2 Cor. 2:9-11; Luke 17:3-4)

Help each other (Gal. 6:2-5)

Active reconciliation (Matt. 5:22-24)

Don't take another believer to court (1 Cor. 6:5-6)

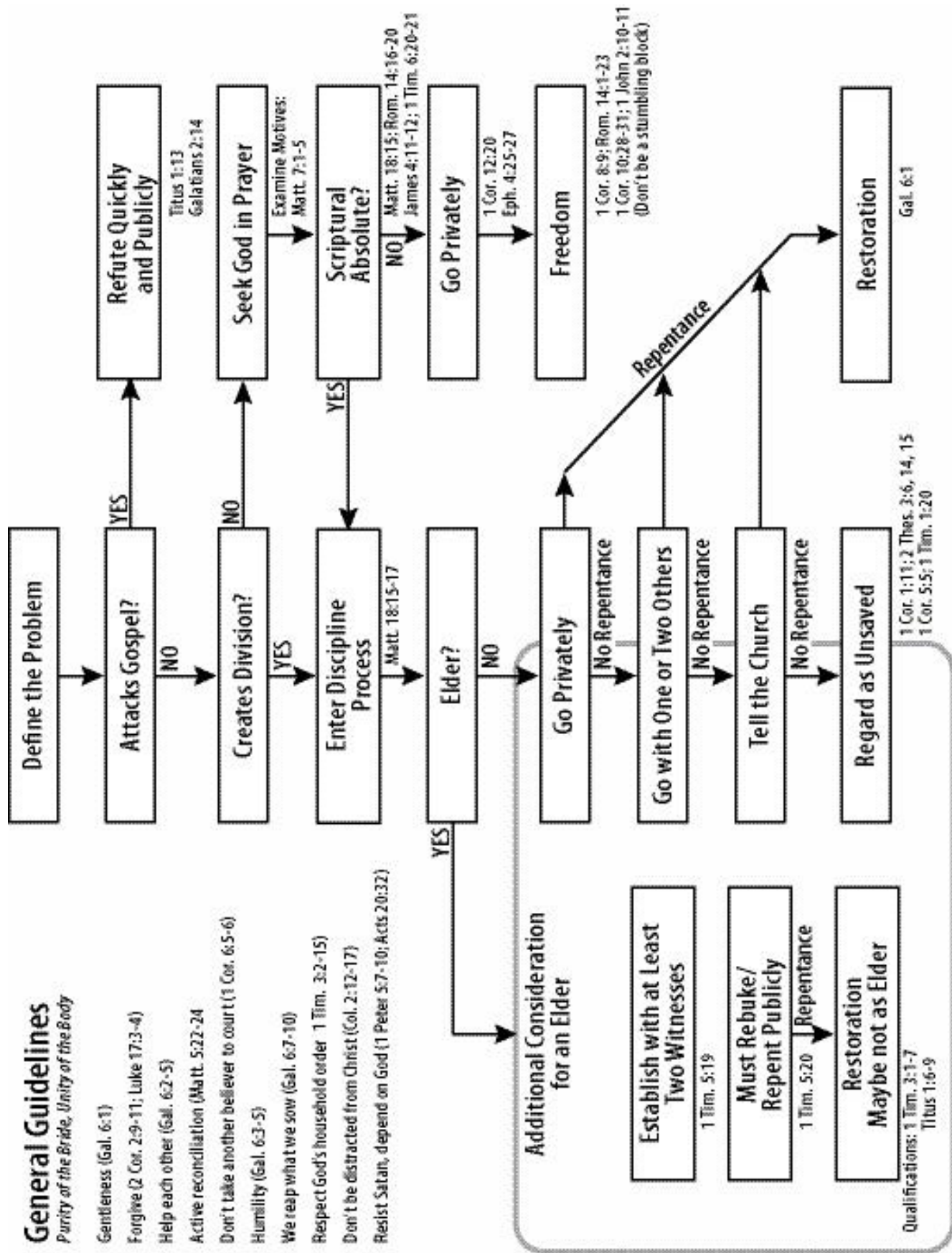
Humility (Gal. 6:3-5)

We reap what we sow (Gal. 6:7-10)

Respect God's household order (1 Tim. 3:2-15)

Don't be distracted from Christ (Col. 2:12-17)

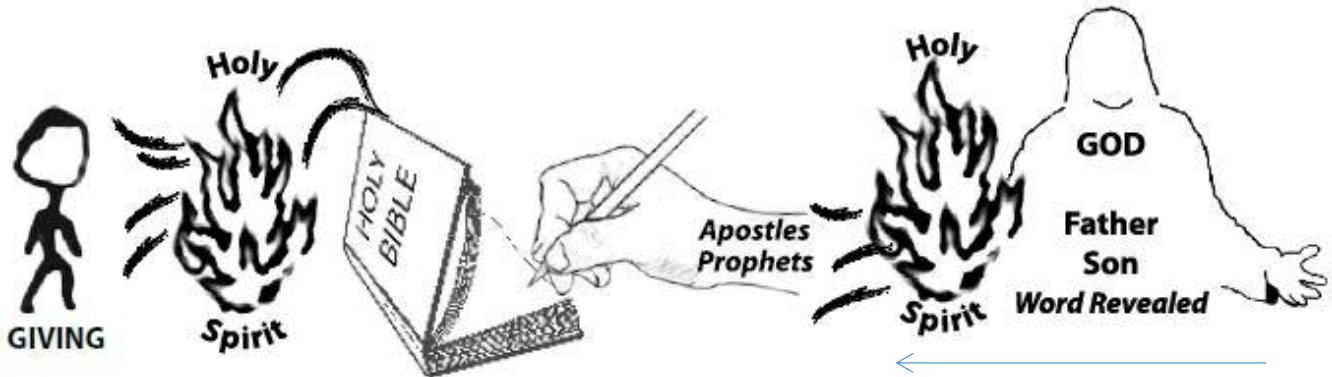
Resist Satan, depend on God (1 Peter 5:7-10; Acts 20:32)



# Giving and Financial Matters

Referred to in Chapter 1, Page 20; Chapter 5, Pages 103, 104, 122.

The Word of God is clear that everything belongs to God, but He has entrusted His people with some of it. He expects us to discharge our stewardship wisely and faithfully, but first we are to give our hearts to Christ. Giving is proof of our love for Christ. We cannot love without giving.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about giving and money.

Matthew 6:19-21 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 14:13-21 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Luke 21:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 6:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 11:27-30 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 20:35 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 6:6-10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2 Thessalonians 3:6-15**

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**1 Corinthians 16:1-4**

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**2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15**

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**1 Timothy 3:3-5**

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**1 Timothy 5:1-18**

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**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a brief summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God’s Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes)

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**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

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What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

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**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

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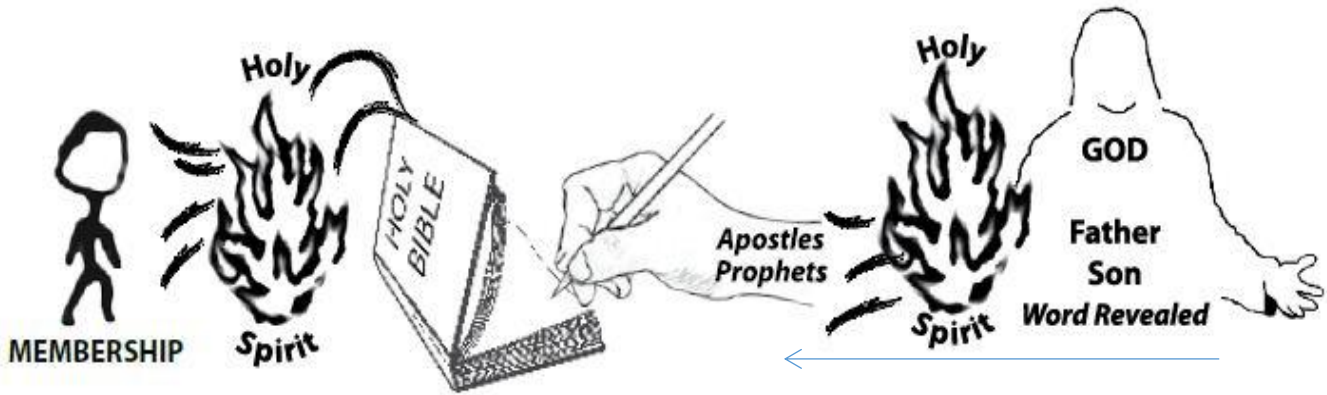
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# Serving One Another (Church Membership)

Referred to in Chapter 5, Project G, Page 125.

By trying to control and measure success, many churches today have devised a worldly membership form which is foreign to the Bible. The problem is that in some churches this form has become an absolute. As you hear from God's Word, you will observe a membership based on each person's commitment to one another in the Body of Christ, under the Headship of Christ and direction of the Holy Spirit.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about church membership.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27 \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 5:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 6:2 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Thessalonians 4:18 - 5:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 12:5-10 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 13:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 15:5-14 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 4:2

Ephesians 5:21

Philippians 2:3-4

Colossians 3:12-14

James 5:16

1 Peter 5:5

**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a brief summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God's Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes)

**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

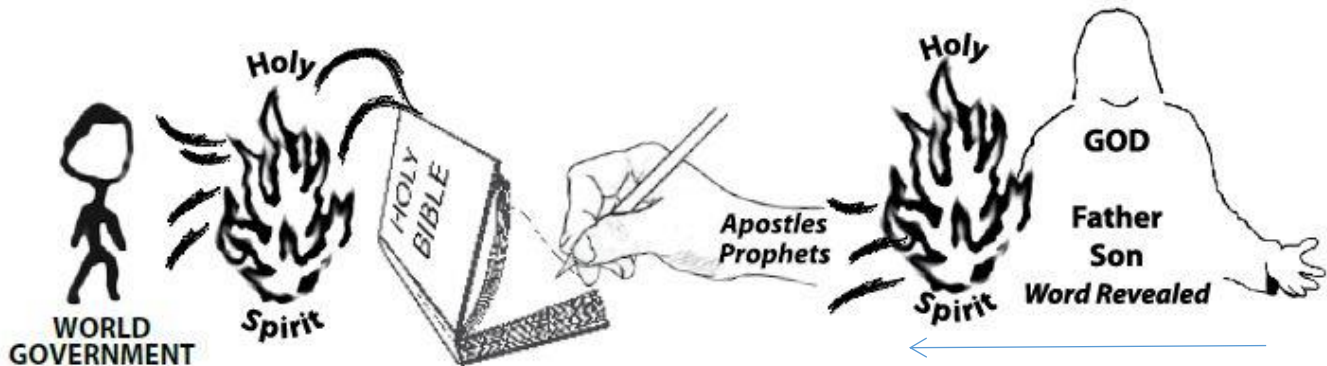
What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

# Relationship with the World and Government

Referred to in Chapter 5, Pages 107.

The Word of God speaks clearly about your relationship with the world and its governments. The Church is to obey and respect the governing authorities. Believers are called to present their bodies as living sacrifices and not to reform or conform to the world but to be transformed. Jesus, Paul and the early apostles set an excellent example of our relationship with the world.



**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about the world and government.

Matthew 5:13-16 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

John 15:17-20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 5:24-29 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Romans 12:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Romans 13:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 3:8-11 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 6:10-20

Colossians 4:2-6

1 Timothy 2:1-8

Titus 2:1-15

Titus 3:1-14

1 John 2:15-17

**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a brief summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God’s Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes)

**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

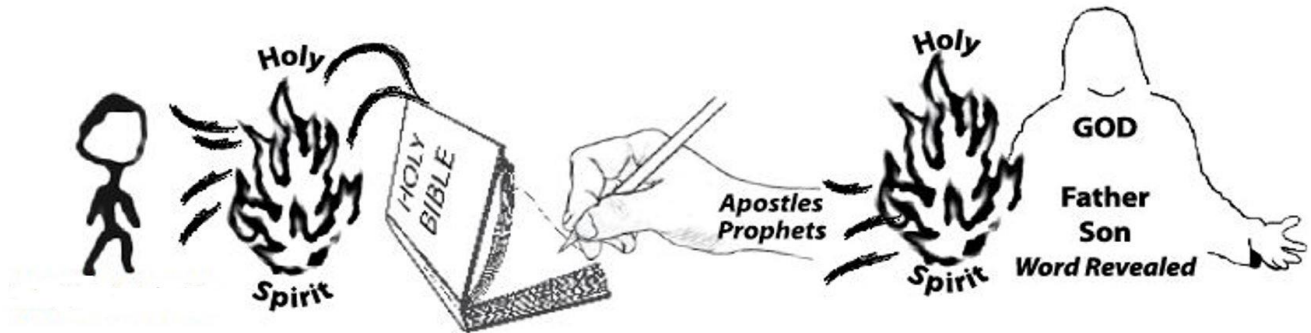
**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?



# Homosexuality and Same-Sex Marriage

Referred to in Chapter 6, Page 138.

While the Bible does address homosexuality, it does not explicitly mention same-sex marriage. It is clear, however, that the Bible condemns homosexuality as an immoral and an unnatural sin. Since homosexuality is condemned by Scripture, it follows that homosexual “marriages” are not the will of God and would in fact be sinful. According to the Bible, marriage is ordained by God as between a man and a woman. Therefore, same-sex marriage is a perversion of the institution of marriage and an offense to the God who created marriage.



Homosexuality and Same-Sex Marriage

**Observation:** Read and observe the following verses and write down what you learn about God’s view on same-sex marriage.

Genesis 19:5, 24 \_\_\_\_\_

Leviticus 18:22-23 \_\_\_\_\_

Leviticus 20:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Judges 19:22 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 19:3-6 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 1:24-27 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Timothy 1:8-11**

**Jude 7**

**Meditation:** Based on these verses, write a brief summary of the key principles and functions that you observed from God’s Word that every person, family and church could follow at any time, in any culture. (Absolutes)

**Discussion:** Contrast these principles with your life, family and church experience today.

What changes do you need to make in your life, family and church here and now?

**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

# Apostle's Ministry Assessment

Referred to in Chapter 5, page 125; Chapter 6, Page 150.

The following assessment should be used annually to evaluate your progress, individually and together with other church leaders. Although no ministry is perfect in every area, there should be steady progress in the areas you are dissatisfied with. Circle the number below that expresses your assessment on each subject.

**Preaching** (Acts 11:19-20) Christians scattered, preaching the gospel  
Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Turning** (Acts 11:21) Many turned to the Lord  
Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Sending** (Acts 11:22-24a) Jerusalem Church sends Barnabas to Antioch  
Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Multiplying** (Acts 11:24b) Antioch Church adds a great number of people to the Lord  
Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Mentoring** (Acts 11:25) Barnabas gets Saul's help  
Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Teaching** (Acts 11:26) Barnabas and Saul taught a great many people for a year  
Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Maturing** (Acts 11:26) Believers were first called Christians in Antioch  
Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Sending and Reproducing** (Acts 13:1-4) Antioch Church sends Barnabas and Saul to the world  
Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Evangelizing** (Acts 13:4-14:21) They evangelized strategic cities  
Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Instructing** (Acts 14:21-22) Instructed the new believers  
Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Appointing** (Acts 14:23) Appointed Elders  
Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Accountability** (Acts 14:27-28) They reported to Antioch

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Establishing** (Acts 15:36-28:31 and the Epistles) They established churches by visits and letters

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Teamwork** (Acts) They networked with missionary teams and with churches

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Equipping** (2 Corinthians 2:12-13) They gave priority to a struggling church

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Fulfilled** (Romans 15:19-20) The gospel was preached from Jerusalem to Illyricum

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Expanding** (Acts 28:30-31) The gospel continued to expand

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Baton Passed** (2 Timothy 2:2ff) The next generation of leaders continued the process

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Discussion:** Why are the apostles' qualifications and roles often confused with those of pastors, elders and overseers? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why are the qualifications for an apostle important and how do they promote the expansion of the gospel? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

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# Church Planter's Ministry Described Biblically

Referred to in Chapter 4, Page 77; Chapter 6, Page 150.

The ministry of apostles (with a small “a”) or the literal meaning, “*sent ones*”, did not end in the first century. Today they are often referred to as “church planters,” “missionaries” or “evangelists,” or even “pastors.” But, do modern day definitions go far enough in explaining this important New Testament ministerial calling? In Acts 14:14, both Barnabas and Paul are called “apostles.” These apostles or sent ones were an itinerant extension of the church whose duties included *preaching* the gospel, *establishing* new believers and setting the churches in order. For the sake of clarity, we will refer to this role as church planter or apostle. Let us look at their responsibilities as revealed in the Antioch model of evangelizing, establishing, equipping and expanding.

## The Church Planter's Ministry Described

### *Evangelizing:*

The church planters founded churches by *preaching the gospel* and organizing the disciples into communities. Their teachings formed the believer's faith which was the foundation of the new Church. At times, the church planters would have to do repair work on this foundation.

### *Establishing:*

The apostle was to be devoted to establishing churches and *setting the churches in order* through teaching and preaching the truths of how a church, the household of God, ought to conduct itself. This was all done with a view of keeping the church on an orderly course (Titus 1:5; 1 Timothy 3:14-16; 6:2b; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-3:10).

### *Equipping:*

The apostle *appointed elders* or pastors, who were entrusted with the nurturing of the disciples. Then the apostle would go on to other places. The nature of his ministry made it necessary that he should be able at times to function as a pastor/elder (1 Peter 5:1; 2 John 1:1; 3 John 1:1). However, he never settled down anywhere to do the work of a permanent pastor or elder. Not only was he involved in recognizing and appointing elders, but also, if necessary, he would confront elders who were sinning (Acts 20:17-38; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 5:17-25; Titus 1:2-9).

### *Expanding:*

The apostle gave priority to *developing faithful “Timothys”* to whom he could *pass on* the Scriptures (2 Timothy 2:2). He was an extension agent or minister who was *responsible for planting and establishing the churches*.

## The Church Planter's Instructions Given

### *Paul's Instruction:*

The church planter's instructions are provided in Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus. They deal primarily with the church planter's life and ministry.

### *Godliness:*

He is to *pay close attention to his own life and teaching, and train and discipline himself for the purpose of godliness*. His progress is evident to all. He is to work hard like a farmer, be disciplined as an athlete, and be untangled in civilian affairs as a soldier (1 Timothy 4:1-16; 2 Timothy 2:3-6; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

### *Preparedness:*

Paul knew the roughness of the road, the hardness of the fight, the subtlety of the enemy, and the special dangers and temptations that beset the church planter; therefore, he had the need for constant vigilance and readiness.

## The Church Planter's Authority

### *Authority:*

*The apostle's charge and authority come from God*. His work is to preach and teach in season and out (2 Timothy 4:1-5; Titus 2), to establish churches (Titus 1:5; Acts 14:23), to oversee churches and elders (1 Timothy 1:3; Titus 1:5; 1 Timothy 4:11-13; 5:1, 17, 19-20; 2 Timothy 4:2-5; Titus 2), to reprove, rebuke, exhort (1 Timothy 5:20-21; Titus 1:13-14; 2:15), to guard against doctrines of demons and refute those who contradict their teaching (Titus 3:10-11; Acts 15:1-2; 1 Timothy 1:3-4) and to minister through prayer and faith (2 Timothy 4:1-4; 2:22-26; 1 Timothy 4:1-16). Their preparation, under the providential guidance of the Holy Spirit, is to study the scriptures to obtain experiential knowledge by participating in the life and work of the local churches.

## The Church Planter's Call Confirmed

### *Confirmation:*

The apostle's call was received directly from the Lord and made known to the leaders by the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:2-4; 16:1-3). This is beautifully described in Acts 13:2, "*While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them'.*" The leader received from the Holy Spirit his calling confirmation (1 Timothy 4:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:6; Acts 13:2-3). He was to be available to minister locally and in other parts of the world as God would open and close doors. His call was

*primarily taking the gospel to new areas and establishing new and existing churches (Acts 13:1-14:26; 15:36-16:5; Philippians 1:3-7; 2:19-24; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3; 3:13; 1 Timothy 3:14-16; Titus 1:5).*

## The Church Planter's Teamwork

### *Teams:*

Apostles usually ministered in and with “*apostolic teams.*” These teams did not have authority over the local church elders, nor were they under the authority of the elders. Rather they were in complementary relationships. They functioned as part of the shepherding team, and alongside the elders when they resided in that local church for a period of time. Consider 2 Corinthians 8:23 where “*messengers of the churches*” is literally “*apostles of the churches.*”

The apostles served as links among the existing churches and were also involved in starting and helping establish new churches. Several of the “other apostles” mentioned in the scriptures were Andronicus, Apollos, Barnabas, Epaphras, Epaphroditus, Junias, Justus, Silas, Timothy, Titus, and Tychicus.

### *Mentoring:*

There is a multiplying component— not only in seeing churches reproduce, but also in seeing their *teams reproduce*. God is still calling “wise master builders” to serve not only in planting and establishing the church but also in mentoring younger teams of church planters.

## The Church Planter's Responsibilities

The “*kind of men they were*” provided a powerful validation of the truths they were teaching. They were men who were passionate about maintaining a clear conscience before both God and men (1 Thessalonians 1:5; 2:3, 10).

They *preached the gospel* to the unsaved and then established the disciples who had repented from their sins and believed (Acts 13:1-28; Colossians 2:7).

They served as a *communication link between the churches*, exchanging information and reports. They were itinerant laborers who traveled among the churches (Acts 14:27; 15:30-35; Colossians 4:7-8).

They *encouraged the hearts of the saints* through teaching, exhorting and admonishing them with the Word and by living among them as “living epistles” (1 Thessalonians 1:1-9).

They “*set in order what remained*” in newly founded churches by appointing elders and teaching them the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:25-38; Titus 1:5).

They *worked day and night with their own hands* to support their financial needs. In doing so they set an example for the saints that “it is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). Their working removed the possibility of people thinking they were being manipulated for the sake of financial gain by those proclaiming the gospel. They were in effect ‘tent-makers’; yet occasionally they were supported by churches, but not by a church where they were currently ministering. There were actual times when they even refused support (Acts 20:33-38; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 3).

Finally, they *helped resolve serious conflict* within the churches and confronted sin (Acts 15:1-41; Galatians 2:11-14; 2 Timothy 2:24-26).

**Discussion Questions:** Why are “apostles” and church planters often called pastors?

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What are the consequences if the role of “apostle” is neglected or confused with the role of pastor? \_\_\_\_\_

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What changes do you need to make in your life, family, church and ministry here and now?

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**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family, church and ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

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# The Church Planter's Financial Support

Referred to in Chapter 4, page 76; Chapter 6, Page 150.

## Tent-making Versus Full Support

To make tents or not to make tents? The question has relevance to church planters, not only because it is a biblical norm, but because more and more tent-makers today are seeing the advantage of working. One must realize that if church planters are receiving the bulk of their income from donor gifts, then they are forfeiting their ability to be an example to the majority of believers. One must be careful concerning financial support because there is freedom in this area. The key principle is to not let financial support start or stop you.

### *Paul, the Model Church Planter*

Look at the model church planter, the Apostle Paul. He was the greatest church planter who ever lived, yet he deliberately chose to work with his hands to provide his own needs. With all of his apostolic authority and connections with the churches, Paul probably could have received full financial support, but he chose to support himself and his team companions. Paul's model of *working appears to have helped advance the gospel rather than hinder its progress as many believe today.*

### *Paul Showed Them (Acts 20:33-35)*

Paul's example to the Ephesian elders is very clear: *"I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold and clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'"* (Acts 20:33-35 NIV).

### *Paul Made Himself a Model (2 Thessalonians 3:7-13)*

Another example was to the Thessalonians: *"For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'If a man will not work, he shall not eat.' We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat. And as for you brothers, never tire of doing what is right"* (2 Thessalonians 3:7-13 NIV).

## ***Paul Won the Respect of Outsiders (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12)***

Even in Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, he is concerned about his example: *"Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody"* (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12).

## ***Paul Gave Up His Right (1 Corinthians 9)***

1 Corinthians chapter 9 contains one of the most direct discussions on the question of paid church planters found in the New Testament. Paul defends with four arguments his right as an apostle to be supported by those among whom he traveled (verses 1-6): He argues from human experience (verse 7), from the Old Testament agricultural law (verses 8-10; Deuteronomy 25:4), the practice of other workers (verses 11-12), and Old Testament Levitical custom (verse 13). Paul explicitly *gives up this right in order to minister more effectively* (verses 15-23), recognizing that the real reward is a spiritual inheritance yet to come (verses 24-27). Paul explains that he wants to make the gospel of Christ available without charge (verse 18).

## ***Paul Wanted an Effective Ministry (2 Corinthians 7-12)***

Paul did not want to be misunderstood or have the *effectiveness of his ministry reduced*. That is why Paul did not normally receive money from those he was presently ministering to (2 Corinthians 7:2-4; 11:20-21; 12:14-15, etc.). He was willing to receive gifts after he had left, as in Philippi. Paul was willing to labor in accordance with God's provision, making tents or receiving support from others (Philippians 4:10-19). Regardless, Paul was content and free.

## ***The Church Planter Norm***

Those men who are completely supported financially need to realize that they have a limited ministry with respect to setting a good example for future leaders. The ideal model is the type of committed church planter who will serve as a model to all the members of the assemblies as he balances the responsibilities of family, job, and ministry. (Acts 28:30-31; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12; Matthew 25:14-30). The self-supporting church planter should be the norm in a reproducing model of church life, although he is free to receive support and/or work.

## Who Will Be That One Man?

It is almost universally taken for granted that credible missionary work is the work of a *paid professional who trains up indigenous leaders who think they must be fully supported*. Westerners have carried this philosophy all over the world as if it were an essential part of the gospel. The expansion of the church, reduced to its elements, is a very simple thing. It asks for no elaborate organization, no large finances, and no great numbers of paid missionaries. In its new beginning, it may be the work of one man who is neither learned in things of this world nor rich in the wealth of this world. Rather, *it is one who has been with Jesus and is full of the Holy Spirit!*

**Discussion Questions:** Did Paul's work or tent-making trade enhance and accelerate his

ministry or did it hinder or inhibit his ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did Paul's work accelerate his ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

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How did Paul's work accelerate his ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

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Remember, there is freedom! You need to personally decide what is best for you. Does tent-making or full support accelerate or inhibit your ministry? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain your answer:

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**Application:** How and when will you make these changes in your life, family and church?

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# Qualifications for Pastors/Elders/Bishops - Assessment

Referred to in Chapter 6, Page 152.

The following qualifications should be evaluated at least every year individually, with your wife and with the other leaders in your church or ministry. Although no one is perfect in every area, there should be steady progress in your character satisfaction. Circle the number that expresses your assessment below

## As to God and His Word

**Not a new convert** (1 Timothy 3:6). Do you truly know the Lord and are you continually progressing in your spiritual maturity and growth?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Devout** (Titus 1:8). Do you demonstrate a definite commitment to know, love and walk with God?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Holding fast to the faithful Word...able to exhort...and refute...** (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9). Do you have that quality of life and biblical knowledge that enables you to communicate the Word of God to others effectively maintaining a gentle attitude?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

## As to Himself

**If a man aspires to the office of overseer** (1 Timothy 3:1). Do you have a compelling desire to serve the Lord and the body of Christ as an overseer of the flock, not under compulsion, but voluntarily?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Temperate** (1 Timothy 3:2). In daily life, do you tend to react under the Spirit's control according to biblical principles?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Prudent** (1 Timothy 3:2). Do you have a correct view of yourself in your relationship to God and other Christians?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Not quick tempered** (Titus 1:7). Do you have a short fuse? Do you harbor feelings of resentment over a period of time?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

## As to His Family

**Husband of one wife** (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6). How is your relationship with your wife? Literally, are you a one-woman man?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**One who manages his own household well** (1 Timothy 3:4-5; Titus 1:6). Do your wife and children love, respect and follow your leadership and are they responding to your God and His claim on their lives?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

## As to Others

**Hospitable** (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8). Literally, are you “a lover of strangers” and do you use your home as a means to minister to others?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Able to teach** (1 Timothy 3:2). Are you able to communicate the Word of God to others and handle those who disagree with you in a patient and gentle manner? Do others recognize your ability to teach and communicate the Word?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Not self-willed** (Titus 1:7). Do you always have to have your own way or do you set aside your own preferences in order to promote unity and care for the needs of others?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Loving what is good** (Titus 1:8). Do you desire to associate yourself with truth, honor and integrity; do you take advantage of opportunities to do good to all men in order to build them up rather than tear them down?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Not pugnacious or a striker, i.e., anger out of control** (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7). Do you show a tendency to be either physically or verbally abusive because of angry feelings?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Contentious** (1 Timothy 3:3). Do you purposely take the opposite point of view from others for self-seeking reasons such as jealousy or selfish ambition?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Gentle** (1 Timothy 3:3). Are you yielding, showing gentleness and kindness, or are you heavy-handed, insisting on the letter of the law?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Just (Titus 1:8).** Are you able to make just decisions, those that are wise, fair, impartial, objective and honest according to Scripture?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Respectable, orderly, balanced (1 Timothy 3:2).** Are you respected by others because your life adorns the Word of God in a blended and balanced manner?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Having a good reputation with those on the outside (1 Timothy 3:7).** Do you have a good reputation among unbelievers because you have a lifestyle of unquestioned integrity?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

### As to Things

**Free from the love of money (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7).** Do you seek significance, security, and primary satisfaction from material wealth? Do you seek His kingdom and His righteousness first?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Not addicted to wine (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7).** Are you free from any kind of addiction which might take control of your life or cause weaker Christians to stumble? (Romans 14:13-21)

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Discussion Questions:** Why do you think people use pastors, elders and bishops for different titles and functions when biblically they are used interchangeably and mean the same thing?

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Why is academic and social standing used more as a qualification than character?

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**Application:** What can you do to promote the usage of the true biblical role and function of elders? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Qualifications for Deacons - Assessment

Referred to in Chapter 6, Page 154.

The following qualifications should be evaluated at least every year individually, with your wife and with the other leaders in your church or ministry. Although no one is perfect in every area, there should be steady progress in your character satisfaction. Circle the number that expresses your assessment below:

## In General

**Tested . . . beyond reproach** (1 Timothy 3:10). Having been observed over a period of time, are there any violations in the qualities needed to serve that would disqualify you as a deacon, or do you need more time?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

## As to God and His Word

**Holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience** (1 Timothy 3:9). “The mystery of the faith” refers to holding on to sound doctrine with a clear conscience. Do you keep a clear conscience before God?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

## As to Self

**Men of dignity** (1 Timothy 3:8). Do you take your life and work seriously as a part of your devotion to the Lord?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Not double tongued** (1 Timothy 3:8). Are you hypocritical, saying one thing to one person and something contradictory to another?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

## As to Things

**Not addicted to much wine** (1 Timothy 3:8). Are you addicted to anything that is controlling your life or causing a weaker Christian to stumble and sin against God?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Not fond of sordid gain** (1 Timothy 3:8). Are you controlled by the desire for material wealth or do you seek His kingdom and righteousness first?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

## As to Family

**A husband of one wife** (1 Timothy 3:12). Are you a one-woman man? Do you have a good relationship with your wife?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Good managers of their children and their own households** (1 Timothy 3:12). Do your wife and children love, respect and follow your leadership? Are they responding to God and His claim on their lives?

Dissatisfied    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    Satisfied

**Discussion Questions:** What are the differences between deacons and elders?

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Why are deacons sometimes in the position of eldership and leadership?

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Why are the qualifications for a deacon so rigid? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Application:** What can you do to promote the usage of the true biblical role and function of deacon? \_\_\_\_\_

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