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Five Essential

New Testament Shifts

**RE**

**POSITION**

**I. Focus thought**

“I will build my *church* and the gates of hell will not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:17)

Who does the church belong to and who builds the church? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I like Lyle Schaller’s response to the question: “How many members does your church have?”

*3 mistakes to the question:*

1st It is not a church but a mission.

2nd It is not my church it belongs to the Lord.

3rd They are not members, but ministers.

1. Ekklesia’s history (Secular Term)

Greeks

Romans

1. Church (Anglo-Saxon word Kirk, from Kurios meaning belonging to the Lord)

Kuriokos used 2 times in NT

Ekklesia used hundreds of times in NT (called out ones to do kingdom work)

William Tyndale (1524) translation of Scripture never used word “church”

King James (1566-1625) transliterated baptizo and changed Ekklesia to “church”

C. God’s kingdom is built in this world by two elements: God’s power working through the efforts of God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The kingdom of God is a *partnership*. God has assigned his people with an essential role.

I Corinthians 3:5-9 (What conditions are necessary for field to produce fruit)

I Corinthians 3:10-15

Luke 5:1-11

**NOTES:**

**II. Strategic Ministry**

1. Mission Shifts and Cultural Conformity

Illustration: Voyage from London to NY off 1.0 degree lands in Vermont

Revelation 2-3

The conclusion :

1. Jesus’ Strategic Ministry

Goal-oriented and strategic thinking is a characteristic of God. All through the Bible He is seen channeling everything to a single purpose of accomplishing His goal.

Jesus was the most goal-oriented person who ever walked the earth.

Luke 2:41-49

Luke 13:32, 33

Matthew 16:23

John 17:5

John 19:30

Right kind of goals: Single-mindedness, Specific, Challenging

Luke 9:62

Matthew 6:24; 7:13

Leland Stanford approached his minister “My son died. I’d like to do something as a memorial” (9,000 acres and 21 million dollars)

**NOTES**

**III. (Church) is called to Reposition**

Members gifted to ministry

*Body of Christ*

*God*

Mission

Mission

Goals

Ministries



Leadership

**RE**

**POSITION**

**NOTES:**

**IV. REPOSITION: Five NT Shifts to health/growth principles.**

**DEVOTED: From *consumer* to the *committed***

“They ***devoted*** themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42)

*Greek word: Proskartereo:*

**The Four Priorities:**

**1)**

**2)**

**3)**

**4)**

We live in a **society of the uncommitted**. 10% of the people do 90% of the work and support the church financially**.**

**QUESTIONS:**

What or who are we committed too?

What level of commitment do we have?

Jesus taught our aim is to (Matthew 28:18-20)

Jesus’ teaching Matthew 3:2; 4:17; 10:7, 15

The pearl of great price – Matthew 13:44-46

Priesthood of all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (I Peter 2: 5, 9)

**Sacrament** is not a biblical term but appeared early in Christianity.

Latin root word is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. To enter Caesar’s army, one took the *sacramentum* (ceremonial of the oath). The term pagan meant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, one who is not a soldier. One was either Christ’s soldier or a pagan. The irony of today’s church is so many Christians who join Christ’s army never engage in the struggle to conquer the world (Great Commission).

Jesus teaching: Matthew 13:44-46; 16:24; Luke 14:26-33; Philippians 3:7-9; Acts 4:23-30; John 15:1-8

List ways the church leadership can create biblical commitment among the people:

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**EQUIPPED:** **From *DOING* church to *Becoming* church**

“And ***awe*** (holy fear) ***came upon every soul***, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles” (Acts 2:43)

The early church realized God was in them and moving amongst their fellowship.

The term EQUIP is a dynamic, purpose-oriented concept. It means “furnishing or preparing someone for service or action.” The Apostle Paul’s figure of the Christian becoming fully armed and outfitted for spiritual warfare also paints a picture of equipping.

Other analogies for **EQUIP**

**1)**

**2)**

**3)**

**4)**

**5)**

**6)**

**7)**

**8)**

**9)**

**The Great Commission**:

**1)**

**2)**

Ephesians 4:11-13

Vs. 12-13 to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (task)

The word contains the idea of preparing someone for a job

For \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (initial results)

Until we all attain…

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (13)
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (13)
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Jesus: Luke 9:1-6 (the twelve); 10:1-23 (the seventy)

Paul : II Timothy 2 :2

*Strakum Theorum*: The expansion of any movement is in direct proportion to its success in mobilizing its total membership in continuous propagation of its beliefs.

Structure: How do you function? Does the structure encourage An EQUIPPING model?

List ways leadership can generate an equipping model:

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**FELLOWSHIP: From *Religion* to *Relationships* in Transformational Community (Koinonia)**

“They devoted themselves to…***fellowship***…And all the believers were ***together*** and ***had all things in common.*** *They received their food with* ***glad and generous hearts****,* ***praising God*** *and* ***having favor with all the people***” (Acts 2:42, 44, 46))

**Koinonia means**

**1)**

**2)**

**3)**

Fellowship only exists because God the Father through Jesus Christ, the Son (I Corinthians 1:9) and by the Holy Spirit (II Corinthians; Philippians 2:1) has established a grace relationship (a new covenant) with humankind. Those “in” Christ are united with the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, as well as with others “in” Christ. This is Christian koinonia.

Christian fellowship is profoundly interconnected with the purpose of the church. The quality of human association intended by God, but lost in man’s sin, is restored in Christian fellowship. The second, most important subject in the world is our relationship with other people.

See I John 1:6, 7; 2:9-11; I Corinthians 12:24-26; I Peter 4:8-11

**59 One Another’s**

Love… (I John 3:11)

Instruct... (Romans 15:14)

Encourage… (I Thessalonians 5:11)

Spur to good works… (Hebrews 10:24)

Rejoice and Weep… (Romans 12:15)

Forgive… (Ephesians 4:32)

Confess our faults… (James 5:16)

Pray for… (James 5:16)

**“Together…” (Acts 2:46)**

*Homothumadon*

**1)**

**2)**

**3)**

**4)**

**5)**

**Yokefellows (Philippians)**

The famer puts the yoke over the neck of two oxen. The yoke forces the animals to plow in unison and share the weight. The yoke turns the *two* into *one*and allows the farmer to guide *his team* to plow in the desired direction.

You do a similar thing with horses to pull a carriage or weight. This is where we get our words ***teamster*** and ***team***

Putting work horses together they pull 3 times the amount as one. If trained from the outset they will pull 4 times the amount as one.

Again, it’s a favorite leadership term for Paul (Philippians)

1:5 He refers to the elders and deacons as partners in the gospel (1:5).

1:27 they are partners in the sufferings of Christ

1:28 they are partners in the same conflicts he is going through

3:25 Paul calls Epaphroditus his yokefellow & Timothy his Father/son team

4:2 He calls the elders and deacons true yokefellows

4:3 Paul identifies Clement and the rest of the leaders as his yokefellows”

Where did Paul get this word? From Jesus.

Jesus commanded “take my yoke upon you”

We voluntarily bow before our Lord. We allow him to put his yoke on us. Christ’s yoke represents his authority, his character, his mission.

Christ’s yoke binds us all to plow in the same direction and work the fields in unison toward a global harvest.

**Transformational Community**

We change best through relationships (models) – see Mark 3:14; I Thessalonians 2:7-12; I Corinthians 11:1; II Corinthians 3:18

Cultural challenges to fellowship: privitism, time, poor interpersonal skills, and fear.

Acts 2:42ff and 4:23-37 are so different from the American church?

List ways leadership can generate an equipping model:

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**EVANGELISM:** **From *Come and see* to Members *go and share* Christ**

“And day by day, ***attending the temple together*** and breaking bread in their homes…And the Lord ***added*** to their number day by day those who were being saved” (Acts 2:46)

**Jesus went into the Neighborhoods**

Matthew 9:35-38

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.”

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were…

Harassed

Helpless

Like sheep without a shepherd

Then Jesus said the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few, therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

**Jesus sent his disciples into the Neighborhoods**

Matthew 10

Matthew 28:18-20

**The NT Ekklesia**

Acts 2:46

Acts 8-28

**Acts Neighborhood**

Acts 3

Acts 8

Acts 8

Acts 9

Acts 10

Acts 16

Acts 16

Acts 17

Acts 19

Acts 24

**Spiritual Profiling**

***Distortions*** are lies Satan uses about God. He uses these to create distrust amongst the people and a repulsiveness for God. See Genesis 3:1-7. Each profile has their own unique set of distortions about God that must be dealt with before receptivity to the gospel.

I Peter 3:15

List ways the Leadership can enable members to *go and share* Christ:

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**LEADERSHIP : From *Programmatic Leadership to Pastoral Leadership***

“And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need” (Acts 2:42, 45; 6:1-7).

**"Leader"**(John 14:6 ESV)

The word ***leader*** in the NT is tied to the Greek word ***hodos;***a road, a highway or a journey

We see the same definition used in the OT

I.E. In Isaiah 40:1 - God tells the prophet Isaiah to comfort, comfort my people. Verse 3 God says because I’m preparing a ***“highway.”***

*The Highway* is actually *The Leader* Himself who will take his people on a ***journey to God***.

Isaiah 40: 4, this leader will remove every barrier, even raise up the valley’s and lower the mountains.” Nothing will hinder this leader from fulfilling his responsibility of taking the people on the journey to God.

In John 14:6, Jesus declares himself to be the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy when He says, “I am The Way” ***hodos***.” – I am **the highway/path/road**to God.

In I Corinthians 12:28 Paul is describing church leadership. The Greek word he uses for administration was used for a ***pilot*** ***steering a ship.***

So, in the verse Paul is painting church leaders steering God’s churchon this voyage toward Christian maturity (I Corinthians 12:28).

In I Timothy 5:17 Paul describes leadership as (**to rule** ESV: proistamenos) ***standing before the people in order to lead them*** on this journey to spiritual wholeness.

I think it’s interesting that Our English word **leader** comes from the Anglo-Saxon word that means a ***path*** or **course** (taken right out of the bible).

The Anglo-Saxon believed anyone can steer a ship. But only a leader charts the course and knows how to get there.

Our word governor is tied to the Latin word also meaning ***to steer a ship along a clearly defined path.***

**To summarize:**

**1)**

**2)**

**3)**

**4)**

**The NT Scripture use several Greek words to clarify who they are and what they do**

*Presbyteros* – (I Timothy 5:17) A spiritually mature man (Elder)

*Episkopos* (Titus 1:7) is a function/job description of a Presbyteros. Episkopos is a guardian/supervisor of Christ’s teachings and mission.

The Elder ***visits*** the Word of God regularly then ***visits*** the members to ensure they are living out the word correctly.

Episkopos is tied to the word ***visitation*.** Elders visit doctrine, then visit the members to ensure the members proclamation and practice are consistent.

*Poimen* – (I Peter 5:2) A poimen is a function/job description of a Presbyteros.

The word means shepherd. A shepherd is with his flock, caring, guiding, feeding and protecting them from the wolves.

*Poimen - Didaskalos* (Ephesians 4:11) A shepherd with the emphasis on instruction.

Finally, Paul defines Church leadership as *Spiritual Parenting*. Let’s read **I Thessalonians 2:7**.

This letter was written around A.D. 50 just a few years after Paul appointed elders in these congregations.

These men have been recently appointed.

Now, notice how Paul defines their relationship to the members as ***Spiritual parents.***

The role of a mother and father. This spiritual parenting motif fits perfectly with the Church as the household of faith (I Timothy 3:15).

Spiritual parenting models, teaches, exhorts, counsels, babes and children of the kingdom to grow up into the likeness of the Christ to do his Ekklesia mission.

So, specifically what do ministers, and elders do?

First, elders and ministers are spiritually mature men who model the character of Christ and live out Christ’s mission in their particular neighborhood.

This is the mission and goal of every Christian, to be transformed into Christ’s character, so that we become Christ’s Ekklesia, redeeming the neighborhoods.

Ministers and Elders understand the path to get there, a relationship with Jesus Christ. These spiritual overseers visit God’s word regularly and then visit the members to ensure they are striving to be Christ’s Ekklesia.

These pastors love the members and guide them through the challenge. They feed them the word and exhort, correct and encourage the member to take on Christ’s character and to love their neighbors.

These spiritual parents work to develop trust in relationships, so they can come alongside like a mother to nurture and like a father to exhort and challenge to live a life worthy of Ekklesia.

Biblical leaders are raising up new leaders, entrusting new babes in Christ to spiritual parents.

Ministers and Elders stand before the congregation proclaiming Christ will build his Ekklesia. Leaders create the process.

And every member makes it their purpose to take on Christ’s character and be trained to live out Christ’s mission in the neighborhood.

We may not be there yet, but let’s work toward the goal over the next five years, together.

Finally, how is the minister and elder partners in this ministry?

**NOTES**

**"Partners"**

(I Timothy 5:17 ESV)

 The role of paid *minister* that exists in most 21st century Christian Churches and Churches of Christ in America is introduced in I Timothy 5:17, where Paul writes,**“**Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who *labor in preaching and teaching*” (I Timothy 5:17).

So, the NT model of Partnership, is, the minister is a part of the Eldership. The double honor includes pay.

List ways the Leadership can move from programmatic leadership to spiritual parenting/oversight:

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**NOTES**