“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, obtaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-13
SYLLABUS FOR EPHESIANS 4:11 MINISTRY TEAMS
AND THE APOSTOLIC MOVEMENT

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

2. Define and identify the shared and distinct roles for the church of each of the five leadership gifts in Ephesians 4:11.
3. Internalize and accurately interpret key portions of Scripture relative to the subject matter of the course.
4. Effectively present the differences between traditional structure and Biblical structure of the church with positive recommendations for change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Complete all reading assignments and the related activities.
2. Choose one book from the alternative reading list and report to the class.
3. Successfully complete all tests.
4. Write a five (10) page paper. Options: Pioneering a brand new local church or examining the church you are a part of as it pertains to governmental structure and operation.
REQUIRED READING


ALTERNATIVE READING LIST


Ephesians 4:11 Ministry Teams & the Apostolic Movement

Session 1

One of the fundamental reasons for the failure of the church to implement the Last Command of the Lord Jesus Christ is lack of right structures. Patrick Johnstone of Operation World

Matt. 16:18 – And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Eph. 4:11-13 – It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.
The Fivefold Leadership Gifts

- Apostle
- Prophet
- Evangelist
- Pastor
- Teacher
- Christ Appointed
- Servant Leaders
- Equippers
- Spiritual Authority
- World Evangelism

They are called leadership gifts because their role often involves governmental oversight as gifted spiritual leaders bearing influence upon the growth and maturity of the body of Christ. They are frequently referred to as 5-Fold Ministry Gifts due to the specific ministry of equipping God's people for the work of ministry. In addition, they are also called the Ascension gifts because they were given to the church by Christ after His ascension (Eph. 4:10). Although distinctions in functionality exist, they do have common characteristics.

Types of Human Government

- Oligarchy: A few rule
- Monarchy: One rules
- Gerontocracy: Old men rule
- Democracy: People rule
- Theocracy (Hierarchy): God rules through appointed authorities
Monarchy – Civil (Dictatorship); Church (Papal & Episcopal forms)

Hierarchy – rule by a group of officials, which can include the rule of a few (oligarchy), the rule of old men (gerontocracy), or the rule of officials (bureaucracy). The Presbyterian system is where the church is ruled by an Elder whose authority comes from a presbytery.

Democracy – majority rule and it is the choice of the people, which for the church means the “hire and fire” pastoral system. Rev. 3:12-21 – Laodicea means “mass rule”

Human forms of government hinder us from fulfilling the Great Commission!

The purpose of the church is to bring God glory through the worldwide proclamation, reception and worship of His Son...Any church that is not seriously involved in world evangelism has forfeited its biblical right to exist! David Shibley, The Missions Addiction.

The Right Structure?

- Christ, the Head of the Church
- Chief Elder, Bishop
- Multiple Eldership (5-Fold Ministers)
- Deacons
- The Saints (Priesthood of all Believers)

This seems to be the proposed church structure or government of Kevin Conner’s. Conner’s describes the Chief Elder, Multiple Eldership, and the Saints as the three strand Cord that cannot be easily broken. How does this fit when we add Christ as the Head and Deacons?

Eccl. 4:12 – Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.
If our traditional pattern of church government does not comply with the New Testament pattern, we must be willing to take steps to change the pattern. God is restoring the fivefold ministry to His church in our time. A.L. Gill (22)

Look more closely at Ephesians 4:11-16:

11It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

14Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.
Two Offices Set By God In The Church

- Elders (SOC) - Ruling
- Deacons (SOC) - Service

Elders are specialized servant leaders while deacons are specialized servants.

Just like a MEU, Marine Expeditionary Unit (SOC), both are “Special Operations Capable.”

Elders and Deacons were chosen differently.

Elders were chosen by God and appointed by the apostles (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5)
Deacons were chosen by believers and confirmed by the apostles (Acts 6:1-7)

Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust. (Acts 14)

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. (Titus 1)

John 15:16 – chosen means to place
Luke 6:12-13 – Jesus chose from a larger group
Acts 9:15; 26:16 – Paul chosen in advance

Notice “elders” is in the plural (60x), which addresses the issue of the benefits of a plurality of elders.

According to Conner, benefits of this plurality include: safeguarding church from one man rule like Diotrephes (3 John 9,10); provides checks and balances for the “chief elder”; makes a channel for the release of the manifold wisdom of God; provides multiple rule and feeding ministry in the local church; provides covering and protection for all elders.
Elder, Bishop, Overseer are used interchangeably in Scripture and are speaking of the same thing. Abuses will occur when the terms are misunderstood and misapplied.

Bishops – Episcopal & Roman Catholic Church

Eldership – Presbyterian Church

Deacon Board – Baptist Church

Apostolic – Fivefold ministry (Abuses occur here also)

**Biblical Elements of Selection:**

- Calling by God
• Prayer & Fasting
• Qualifications
• Training
• Ordination
• Ministry

Jesus ordained/appointed (the public setting apart for ministry) the Twelve (Mk. 3:14 poieo – to make or do; Lk. 6:13 eklegomai – choose, select out of)
Jesus ordains leaders (Jn. 15:16 tithemi – to place)
Jesus ordained Paul (Acts 26:16 procheirizomai – chosen in advance for a special purpose)
Apostles appoint elders Jesus has selected beforehand (Acts 14:23 cheirotoneo – stretch forth the hand to select/appoint; Titus 1:5 kathistemi – place down to designate/appoint).
The warning in 1 Timothy 5:22 is one most likely referring to the appointment of leaders given the instructions about elders preceding this verse (5:17ff).

Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure. (1 Tim. 5:22)

Goals of Every 5-fold Ministry

- Prepare god’s people for works of service
- Build up the body of Christ
- Bring the body to unity in the faith
- Teach the knowledge of the Son of God
- Brings believers to a place of maturity
- Bring to the fullness of Christ

According to Dr. Santhosh Desabattula, Regional Apostolic Leader for 5-Fold Global Ministries in South India, the top three problems in India (700,000 villages; only 50,000 reached) are:

1. Denominationalism
2. Language (Disunity)
3. Caste spirit

Use the hand to demonstrate the unique roles/functions of each 5-fold ministry and how achieving the goals of the 5-Fold Team can positively impact the modern church in India and around the world.

**The Work of Elders**

- Support God’s Anointed (Acts 20:17, 36-38)
- Earnestly & Willing Tend the Flock of God (1 Pet. 5:1-4)
- Pray & Anoint the sick (James 5:14-16)
- Rule, Preach, & Teach (1 Tim. 5:17)
- Guard the Flock of God (Acts 20:28,29)

Conner (122) understands the role of elders in the following list:

- Ruling the flock of God
- Teaching the flock of God
- Shepherding the flock of God
- Overseeing the flock of God
- Caring for the flock of God
- Governing the flock of God
- Living for the flock of God
- Safeguarding the flock of God
Session 3

The Fivefold Ministry Team

Session Three: Why Are Ascension-Gift Apostles Needed Today?

We must have unity, and we must return to the kind of power the Early Church had if we plan to complete the Great Commission. To fulfill these priorities, we must see the gift of apostleship restored and added to a place of prominence equal to the other gifts. Cannistraci (19)

And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, than workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. I Cor. 12:28

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Eph. 2:19-22

What is an apostle? (Definition)

What do apostles do?
Apostolos, Apostello

- One who is sent forth
- One who is sent forth with orders
- A sent one, an ambassador, a delegate
- One commissioned and authorized by another to represent another and carry out his will and purposes

Classical Usage:

Naval expedition: a fleet of ships sent with a specific objective
Admiral or Commander of a naval expedition
Colony founded by the admiral; group of colonists sent overseas
Personal envoy, emissary or ambassador, a delegate
Apostle has to do with sending – the one sent and the one who sends (Apostolic) are one!
Apostle appears 79 times in the New Testament
Gospels = 10x
Acts = 28x
Epistles = 38x
Revelation = 3x
Definitions:

An apostle is one who is sent out with the authority to establish churches on a solid foundation of God's Word. Gill (28)

Taken together, the word “apostle” simply means a sent one, an ambassador, a delegate, one who is sent forth, one commissioned and authorized by another to represent another and carry out his will and purposes. Conner (139)

The gift of apostle is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to assume and exercise general leadership over a number of churches with an extraordinary authority
in spiritual matters that is spontaneously recognized and appreciated by those churches. Wagner (42)

We are defining an “apostle” as one who is called and sent by Christ to have the spiritual authority, character, gifts and abilities to successfully reach and establish people in Kingdom truth and order, especially through founding and overseeing local churches.

Cannistraci (29)

Note: Protestants interpret the gift of apostle as missionary. This has weakened our understanding of apostle!

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**Apostolic Foundations**

- Jesus (John 3:17; 17:3,8,21-25; Heb. 3:1)
- The Twelve (Luke 6:12,13; John 20:21)
- The Seventy (Luke 10:1)

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The Gospel of John could well be called the Gospel of Christ’s apostleship. He was “The Sent One”, sent forth by the Father, one with the Father, representing the Father and fulfilling His will and purposes as the faithful apostle and high priest of our confession (John 3:17,34; 5:36-38; 6:29,57; 7:29; 9:7; 10:36; 17:3,8,18,21-25; 20:21) The character, nature, grace, revelation and signs of an apostle were perfectly manifested in Him. Conner (140)
Apostles of the New Millennium

- Foundation builders with prophets (Eph. 2:19-21)
- Church planters (Acts 2:40-47; 14:21-23)
- Network leaders (Acts 15:36,40-41; II Cor. 11:28)
- Miracle workers (Acts 2:43; 5:12; 14:3; 15:12)
- Tested by the church (Rev. 2:2)

Apostles were the first ministry chosen and placed by Jesus when He walked on earth – Luke 6:12-15; I Cor. 12:28.

The Early Church was built upon the foundation of apostles and prophets – Eph. 2:20.

Apostles planted and gave oversight to a growing number of churches. In fact, the apostolic ministry progressed from addition to multiplication of the number of disciples and churches during the first 30 years following Jesus' ascension.

Jesus delegates incredible power upon apostles to fulfill the Great Commission

Ascension Gift Apostles of the NT

- Matthias
- James
- Paul
- Barnabas
- Apollos
- Andronicus
- Junia
- Epaphroditus
- Titus
- Timothy
- Judas
- Silas/Silvanus
- Erastus
- Tychicus
- Two Unnamed Brethren
• Matthias (Acts 1:26)
• James, the brother of Jesus (Gal. 1:19)
• Paul (I Cor. 15:8)
• Barnabas (Acts 14:3,4,14)
• Apollos (I Cor. 4:6-9)
• Timothy (Acts 19:22; I Thess. 1:1; 2:6)
• Titus (II Cor. 8:22)
• Silas/Silvanus (Acts 15:22; I Thess. 1:1; 2:6)
• Tychicus (II Tim. 4:12)
• Judas (Acts 15:12; I Thess. 2:6)
• Andronicus (Rom. 16:7)
• Junia (Rom. 16:7)
• Epaphroditus (Phil. 2:25)
• Erastus (Acts 19:22)
• Two Unnamed Apostles (II Cor. 8:23)

28 people mentioned as apostles in the New Testament (Counting the 12)

Note: Early church fathers believed Junia was a woman until Aegidus of Rome (1245-1316) took the name to be masculine.

Oh how great is the devotion of this woman that she should be even counted worthy of the appellation of apostle! John Chrysostom (337-407)
Origen of Alexandria (185-253); Jerome (340-419)
Session 4

Session Four: Why Does The Church Need The Prophetic Ministry Today?

20Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful.”
2 Chronicles 20:20

aw-man’
A primitive root; properly to build up or support; to foster as a parent or nurse; figuratively to render (or be) firm or faithful, to trust or believe, to be permanent or quiet; morally to be true or certain; once (in Isaiah 30:21; by interchange for H541) to go to the right hand:—hence assurance, believe, bring up, establish, + fail, be faithful (of long continuance, steadfast, sure, surely, trusty, verified), nurse, (-ing father), (put), trust, turn to the right.

tsaw-lakh’, tsaw-lay’-akh
A primitive root; to push forward, in various senses (literally or figuratively, transitively or intransitively):—break out, come (mightily), go over, be good, be meet, be profitable, (cause to, effect, make to, send) prosper (-ity, -ous, -ously).

The Church struggles to move forward – the ministry of prophets pushes the Church forward. Of course, there is the preparing, unity, and maturing of the Body of Christ which requires the ministry of all the Ascension Gift ministries.
Prophets are special to the heart of God. They participate in all of God’s plans and performances on planet earth. They are to prepare the way for the second coming of Christ by bringing revelation knowledge on the Scriptures that must be fulfilled before Christ can return. Thus the restoration of the prophet ministry and the company of the prophets is the greatest sign of the nearness of Christ’s coming. Bill Hamon (Prophets, Pitfalls, and Principles 105)

Apostles can do certain good things on their own. Prophets can do certain good things on their own. But hitched together, they can change the world! Wagner (89) See Ephesians 2:20 …built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets… I Cor. 12:28 And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets… 

Jesus said, 24“I tell you the truth,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. Luke 4 40”He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me. 41Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man’s reward. 42And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.” Matt. 10:40-42

Propheteuo = to Say or Speak Forth

- Forth telling – speaking forth a message from God (Heb. 1:1)
- Foretelling – declaring something that will take place in the future (Jer. 28:9)

Propheteuo = to foretell events, divine, speak under inspiration, exercise the prophetic office; to proclaim a Divine revelation, prophesy, to foretell the future; to speak forth by Divine inspiration; to break forth under sudden impulse in lofty discourse our in praise of the Divine counsels. Conner (154)
During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea. This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul. Acts 11

Judean believers were relieved from the famine and NT principles for giving and receiving arise from this context.

Prophets of the New Millennium
- Foundation builders with apostles (Eph. 2:19-21)
- Front runners (Acts 11:27-30)
- Exhorters (Acts 15:32)
- Based & sent forth by the local church (Acts 11:27; 13:1-3)
- Personal Prophecy (Acts 21:10-11)

Although prophets are foundation builders with apostles, Scripture mandates they be under apostolic authority.

Paul-Agabus (Acts 21:10-13); Paul-Silas (Acts 15:40)

5 Key points when apostles and prophets are properly hitched together (Wagner, 92-106)
1. The prophet submits to the apostle (1 Cor. 12:28)
2. God speaks to the prophet (Amos 3:7)
3. The prophet speaks to the apostle
4. The apostle judges, evaluates, strategizes and executes
5. The prophet submits to the apostle

Prophets are ahead of their times and can spare the church much despair!
The prophetic office is a gift extension of Jesus Christ Himself. There is also the gift of prophecy, which is one of the nine manifestation gifts of the Holy Spirit. 

*All may prophecy, but not all are prophets!* Conner (155) 

The *gift of prophecy* operates within the saints or a minister for the general up-building, encouraging, and comforting of the Church (1 Cor. 12:10; 14:3,4). But the office of prophet is authorized and anointed to flow in the areas of guidance, instruction, rebuke, judgment, and revelation—whatever Christ chooses to speak for the purifying and perfecting of His Church. The prophets are especially anointed to perceive what is next on God's agenda for restoration. Then they lift their voices like trumpets to alert, enlighten, and charge the Church to conquer that part of the truth to be restored at that time. The prophets are thus the eyes of the Body of Christ, the trumpeters in the army of the Lord to give a clear sound revealing the desires of the Commander-in-Chief. Hamon (107-108) 

Spirit of Prophecy is not a gift or office, but a special anointing from Christ Himself for a specific time. This can also come forth in prophetic song (Col. 3:16) and/or prophetic instrumentation (Is. 30:32) 

Prophecy of Scripture involves prophetic preaching 

Prophetic Presbytery involves the laying on of hands with prophecy by men and women who meet the qualifications of a presbyter. It is a biblical practice. Prophetic revelation and confirmation is ministered to those called to leadership ministry in the church; those ordained to the fivefold
ministry; confirmation and activation of membership ministries in the Body and progress in Christian maturity.

**Major Tests of Prophets**

- Test of the spirit (I John 4:1-3)
- Test of Fulfillment (Dt. 18:22)
- Test of Worship (Dt. 13:1-5)
- Test of Doctrine (I John 4:1-6)
- Test of Fruit (Matt. 7:15-23)
- Test of Covetousness (II Pet. 2:1-3)
- Test of Ministry to the People (Jer. 23:18-23)

Conner (167-168)

- Holy Spirit, Flesh, or Satan
- Did the prophetic word come to pass?
- Did the word given lead one away from worship of Christ alone or to something else?
- Is the prophetic word in harmony with the Word of God?
- Does the prophet have godly character and holiness in living?
- Is there a desire for personal gain and/or finances?
- Does the prophetic word turn people to God?

I Cor. 14:3, 29-32: But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.

*Oikodome* – build up, edify

*Paraklesis* – encourage

*Paramuthia* – comfort

**Seven Abuses & Extremes** – Hamon (120)

1. An overemphasis on personal prophecy
2. Ministering out from under the authority of church leadership
3. Using prophecy to justify rebellion and other sin
4. Controlling or manipulating others through prophetic ministry
5. Using the prophetic gifting for personal gain
6. Trying to fulfill personal prophecy out of proper timing
7. Presumptuous, critical, and judgmental prophesying
Session 5

The Fivefold Ministry Team

**Session Five:** How Is The Ministry Of The Evangelist Different From The Call On Every Believer’s Life To Evangelize?

Examine the ministry, the message, and the messenger!

- Apostles – govern
- Prophets – guide
- Evangelists – gather
- Pastors – guard
- Teachers – ground

We often think the evangelist is one who goes out and holds large crusades. The emphasis has been on his traveling ministry. However, the primary ministry of the evangelist according to Ephesians 4 is “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry.” Gill (80)

Example: If an evangelist led a thousand to Christ each day, it would take him over ten thousand years to bring in an end time harvest of 4.2 billion souls. If the same evangelist led only one person to Jesus each year, then trained that person to win one and train one in personal evangelism, it would take only 32 years to reach the same number of souls.

This leads me to ask: Where does evangelism begin: Outside or Inside the Body of Christ?
Euaggelizo, Euaggelion, Euaggelistes

- The ministry and means to announce good news or glad tidings (Luke. 4:18,19)
- The message of the gospel or the good message (Matt. 24:14)
- The messenger or preacher of good news (Eph. 4:11)

NT Usage: 45x (10 in Luke); 95x; 3x

We must always keep the target before us – Reaching the Lost

The beloved, the target, and the ultimate goal of any service to God is the human beings; persons and not objects. This is why if servants of God would concern themselves with structures and physical objects or intellectual issues rather than human beings, they would fail. Priorities must be rightly set with emphasis on the people to be reached in high focus. Very often, good and great programs, visions, and dreams are translated into the formation of groups, societies, ministries, missions and other bodies. Not long after, the architects are divided and have different followings. This is usual in the church setting. Soon, such splits are reproduced into duplication of the same functions. Sometimes the reason is that the partners in the venture shift their focus from people to objects and things that will be achieved from the undertakings. Man in his lost state should be the primary focus of ministry and mission activity. Sampson Dorkunor, Ghana (The Joy of Service to God, p, 24-25)

The most important passage of Scripture that we can study together is Acts 1 and 2. There we see how God, by the Holy Spirit, launched the church. The principles that surrounded that dramatic day will give us concepts of how we can be used by the Spirit to evangelize and to disciple people...
today. The way God started it all is the way that He will carry it on today. Billy Graham’s Opening Greetings at Amsterdam 2000

Evangelists of the New Millennium

- Preachers & Soul Winners Par Excellence (Acts 8:5,6,13,34-48)
- Breakthrough Agents (Acts 8:4-8,9-13)
- Runners for Jesus (Acts 8:29-30,39-40)
- Philip, the Evangelist (Acts 21:8)
- The Work of an Evangelist (II Tim. 4:1-5)

Principles of Personal Evangelism:

- Listen to the voice of the Lord and obey Him
- Do not be afraid to minister to those in authority
- Be willing to be led by the Spirit to one soul in need
- Know the Scriptures and how to apply them
- Preach Jesus Christ as a person, not merely a doctrine
- Preach saving faith
- See that the new convert is immediately baptized in water

Evangelists’ breakthrough demonic strongholds over people and cities
Evangelists are fast paced with a launching mentality (want to run)
Philip is the only one mentioned in Scripture as an ascension gift evangelist
Pages 80-82 of Gill is an excellent section on the primary work of the Evangelist

12I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. John 14

If all believers are to preach the gospel, cast out demons, and heal the sick, then all believers must be trained! The primary task of the evangelist is to equip or train!
Types of Evangelism

- Personal evangelism
- Mass evangelism
- Oikos evangelism
- Power Evangelism

Personal Evangelism – John 4 Jesus & the Samaritan Woman; Acts 8:27-30 Philip & the Ethiopian eunuch


Power Evangelism – Luke 9:1-2; 10:9, 17; Mark 16:20 Jesus sends us with power; Acts 8:4-8 Philip in Samaria; Acts 9:32-35 two cities turn to the Lord when Aeneas is healed

Power evangelism refers to the combination of the proclamation of the gospel with the demonstration of the power of God to cast out demons, heal the sick, and raise the dead, resulting in large crowds and many followers. John Wimber (Power Evangelism, 86)

Four Levels of Evangelism:

1. E-0 Evangelism: Winning to Christ those who are already church members
2. E-1 Evangelism: Winning to Christ those from your own culture
3. E-2 Evangelism: Winning to Christ those from a culture slightly different from your own
4. E-3 Evangelism: Winning to Christ those from a culture vastly different culture from your own

Book of Acts (Early Church) reflects primarily E-2 & E-3 evangelism (cross cultural) from Hebrew Jews to Hellenistic Jews; from Jews to Samaritans; from Jews to Gentiles.
The only truly effective evangelism is miracle evangelism. For years the church has been trying to reach the world with the gospel by traditional methods and techniques without expecting God to confirm His word with signs and wonders. We have used tracts and forms. Too often we have had a form of godliness but have denied its power. The evangelist is to have an anointing to minister with great signs, wonders, and healing miracles. Every time God confirms His Word with healing miracles, many will come to Jesus. The church described in the book of Acts grew by thousands because of miracle evangelism. Gill (75)

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**Evangelistic Examples and Patterns**

- Jesus
- Early believers
- Philip
- Peter & John
- Paul & Barnabas

- Luke 4:18,19
- Acts 8:4
- Acts 8:5-40
- Acts 3:6-10
- Acts 19:10-11

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Early Believers evangelized wherever they went

Nothing spreads the gospel like the fire burning in every believer’s heart to go everywhere preaching the word (Acts 8:4). This remarkable thrust of personal evangelism occurred during a time of great persecution against the Jerusalem church following the martyrdom of Stephen. Interestingly, the apostles initially stayed in Jerusalem while individual believers were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:1). Was this a random scattering of frightened believers? I do not think so. Although scattering can conjure up different notions in English, the Greek diaspeiro clearly means to sow throughout, to distribute to foreign lands. Under what I believe was the intended plan of the Holy Spirit, individual believers were deployed to spread the gospel throughout Judea, Samaria, and as far as Antioch where the disciples were first called Christians (Acts 11:26).
The most blessed local Churches are those who know the shepherd-sheep relationship between leaders and people. Conner (186)

The pastor is the most visible of the ministry gifts in the church today. However, during the time of the early New Testament Church this wasn’t so. Gill (83)

What does this mean?
Do we really understand this office of ministry?
Can we get back on track?
Jehovah Ra’ah – Ps. 23:1 The Lord is my Shepherd

Jeremiah
2:8 leaders (shepherds) rebelled against the Lord
3:15 Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.
10:21 The shepherds are senseless and do not inquire of the LORD; so they do not prosper and all their flock is scattered.
12:10 Many shepherds will ruin my vineyard and trample down my field; they will turn my pleasant field into a desolate wasteland.
17:16 I have not run away from being your shepherd; you know I have not desired the day of despair. What passes my lips is open before you.
22:22 The wind will drive all your shepherds away.
23:1-5 Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. 2Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: “Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done,” declares the LORD. 3“I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. 4I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the LORD.

Poimen – 18x and only in Eph. 4:11 is it translated “pastor”

A pastor is a shepherd, one who takes care of the flock of God, feeding, guiding, and overseeing them.
Pastors of the New Millennium

- Shepherds of the local church (Jer. 13:5; Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5)
- Leaders/supervisors of the local church (Acts 20:28; I Pet. 5:2)
- Examples for the local church (I Pet. 5:3)
- Protectors of the flock (Acts 20:29-31)
- Unifying agents (Matt. 9:36)

Pastors are married to the local church and appear not to oversee a number of churches like apostles do. Neither are they sent forth as the other fivefold ministers. Therefore, pastors are seldom involved with itinerant/traveling ministry. This is a residential ministry! Pastors have the shepherding responsibilities over the local church under the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

Pastors guard the flock of God against

- Strangers John 10:5
- Thieves John 10:1,9,10
- Robbers John 10:1,9,10
- Hirelings John 10:12,13
- Wolves John 10:12,13

John 10 demonstrates the example of Jesus as the Good Shepherd in contrast to the others.
Jesus Christ
The Good Shepherd (John 10:10)
The Great Shepherd (Heb. 13:20)
The Chief Shepherd (I Pet. 5:4)
The Shepherd and Bishop of our souls (I Pet. 2:25)
The #1 thing is His willingness to lay down His life for the sheep.
As the Chief Shepherd, Jesus has given “undershepherds” who are accountable to Him

An impossible burden has been placed on the pastor due to our lack of understanding of this ministry gifting. In many local congregations, the pastor is responsible for everything including winning the lost, taking care of the flock, being responsible for the finances, being the teacher, and the evangelist…In the New Testament Church, we see each one of the fivefold ministry gifting in operation instead of leaving all the ministry to the pastor, as has been our tradition. Gill (83)

The Jethro Principle is where the pastor shares the burden with other elders. (Ex. 18:13-26; Num. 11:24-25)
The local church is the flock of God. They are His sheep purchased with His blood. The sheep have responsibilities too:

- Listen and follow the shepherd
- Graze with the flock and move together with the flock
- Reproduce
- Submit to shepherding
New Testament Church Facts

- 48 Churches with no traditional “pastor” or one man over any of them
- No one was ever called “pastor”
- No where is it said that a “pastor” must be the head of the local church
- Greek word for “pastor” is only translated once as such

Questions:

Why choose “pastor” from the fivefold ministry gifts and call almost every ministry by this title?

Is it wise to send pastors forth to plant new churches?

Must the primary leader of a local church be the one with the ministry gift of “pastor”?

Where did the concept of today’s one man pastoral system come from?

Can it be changed? Is it really possible?
I Tim. 4:13-15  

13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. 14 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. 15 Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. 16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Scriptures like the one above certainly attest for the importance of the ascension gift of “teacher”. Because of religious doctrine and the doctrine of man, the term “doctrine” has gotten a negative connotation, but this was not the case in the early church.

Acts 2:42  

Early believers were devoted to the apostle’s teaching

proskartereoô - From G4314 and G2594; to be earnest towards, that is, (to a thing) to persevere, be constantly diligent, or (in a place) to attend assiduously all the exercises, or (to a person) to adhere closely to (as a servitor):—attend (give self) continually (upon), continue (in, instant in, with), wait on (continually).

Karteredo = to be strong  

kratos = dominion, might, power, strength

Rom. 6:17  

Early Believers obeyed from the heart the “form of doctrine” they were taught. There was a model doctrine!
Rom. 16:17  Early Believers spied out those who caused division contrary to the doctrine learned and avoided them.

II Tim. 4:3  Early Believers saw a time when many would not put up with sound doctrine.

There is authority and power in the doctrine of Christ! These two things separate it from all other doctrine (Matt. 7:28-29; Luke 4:32; Mark 1:27

Together these words show that a Teacher is one who points out by the finger, directs, informs, instructs, shoots as an archer, and shows, by teaching the ways of the Lord. His teaching is to flow like water, and comets down like rain. He is the one who is skillful in instruction and causes others to learn. His teaching is like a goad, a rod, that causes the people of God to walk in the ways of the Lord. Conner (p. 187).

A teacher therefore is one who instructs, and by his teaching causes others to learn. It involves exposition, explanation and instruction of doctrine to others. Conner (p. 188)

Teaching = Instruction + Activation
 Teachers of the New Millennium

- Master instructors (Luke 2:46; John 3:2,10; Acts 13:1)
- Imprinters of sound doctrine (Luke 6:40; II Tim. 4:3)
- History makers (II Tim. 2:2)
- Warning of stricter judgment (James 3:1)

Luke 6 40 A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher. (Imprinting)
Fully trained = complete and thorough

II Tim. 2 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. Be qualified = competent

Howard Hendricks, The 7 Laws of the Teacher.

1. If you stop growing today, you stop teaching tomorrow. (Law of the Teacher)
2. The way people learn determines how you teach. (Law of Education)
3. Maximum learning is always the result of maximum involvement. (Law of Activity)
4. To truly impart information requires the building of bridges. (Law of Communication)
5. Teaching that impacts is not head to head, but heart to heart. (Law of the Heart)
6. Teaching tends to be most effective when the learner is properly motivated. (Law of Encouragement)
7. The teaching-learning process will be most effective when both student and teacher are adequately prepared. (Law of Readiness)
James 3 1 Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

One of the saddest things is seeing those won to Christ being led into some sort of religious bondage. Acts 15:1-29; Gal. 3:1-2; 4:1-21; Col. 2:6-23

2 Cor. 3 6 He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Mark 7:1-13 Tradition of the elders condemned by Jesus

Examples of False Doctrines: (Conner p.194)

- Denial of the bodily resurrection (II Tim. 2:16-18)
- Turning grace to opportunity for the flesh (Jude 3-4; Rev. 2:20)
- Cause division (Rom. 16:17)
- Material prosperity for gain (I Tim. 6:6-19; II Pet. 2:3; Titus 1:10-11)
- Doctrine of Balaam (Rev. 2:14)
- Doctrine of the Nicolaitans (Rev. 2:6,15)
- Doctrines of demons (I Tim. 4:1-5)

We are not to be carried about by every wind of doctrine!
Can we honestly say that these foundational teachings are being properly taught in a large number of local churches?

Heb. 5:12-14  Does this mean that believers cannot mature without these chief principles of Christ being properly taught?

Heb. 6:1-3 1Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3And this we will do if God permits.

This dialogue is in the context of a lack of maturity that resulted from these foundational teachings of Jesus not being thoroughly taught.

Let's us also not forget that teaching is mandated by the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-21)
A worldwide apostolic movement is upon us!
God is progressively restoring the Church to the New Testament pattern
Apostles are needed for the Body of Christ to reach maturity
It is already happening around the world
The Spirit of God is an apostolic Spirit – Gal. 4:6
_Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father._
_The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Selucia and sailed from there to Cyprus_ (Acts 13:4)
Mark 4:26-29 – Apostolic movement is in the blade stage now
The Book of Acts documents the first apostolic wave; the 21st century will document the last apostolic wave and this will be the greatest wave ever!
Notice that God set in the church first apostles, then prophets, then teachers, … (I Cor. 12:28)

And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.

With the recognition of the office of apostle in the 1990’s the complete government of the Church came into place for the first time since the early centuries. Wagner (p. 19)

The apostolically oriented churches that will be moving the Body of Christ forward in this twenty-first century have aggressive missionary outreach in their spiritual DNA. An aggressive missionary mind-set is an established part of the springboard from which the apostles are taking us forward today. Wagner (p.14)

Wagner (p.25) states there are two essential characteristics that set apostles apart from others in the Body of Christ:

1. The amount of delegated authority
2. The sphere of ministry assigned (churches, leaders, cities/nations)

The authority of an apostle is only operative within the sphere of ministry that God has assigned to the apostle. Wagner (p.38)
**Apostolic Definitions**

- **Apostle**
  - one who is called and sent by Christ to have the spiritual authority, character, gifts and abilities to successfully reach and establish people in Kingdom truth and order, especially through founding and overseeing local churches. Cannistraci (p.29)

- **Apostolic people**
  - Christians who support and participate in apostolic ministry, but are not actual apostles (Note: they work with apostles to reach the lost through dynamic outreach, church planting and nurturing) p.29

- **Apostolic churches**
  - churches that recognize and relate to modern-day apostles and are active in varying forms of apostolic ministry.

- **Apostolic movement**
  - the Holy Spirit's worldwide activation of apostles and apostolic people to come together as a part of a great revival on earth. (p.29)

Thousands of apostles X multiplied thousands of apostolic people = worldwide apostolic company that will fulfill the Great Commission in the 21st century.
The nations will be visited by a new company of apostles who will function as the apostles of the Early Church did. This will constitute a new generation of apostolic pacesetters. The number of these apostles cannot be known, but given the task of taking the nations in the final harvest, it is likely that they will number into the thousands. Cannistraci (p. 34)

The Spirit of God will be poured out to empower the process of multiplying apostolic people and apostolic churches. (p.35)

Ultimately, apostolic pacesetters and apostolic people will walk in apostolic power.

The apostles will be strategically deployed as the Spirit of God speaks to them about cities and nations to be reached. Thousands will take their places in the final thrust of world evangelization through this life changing apostolic positioning. Each apostle will be unique, but will walk in the patterns of the Early Church apostles, traveling, strategically ministering and building the kingdom of God. (p.35)
Global Positioning of the Church

- Be receptive to what God is doing today
- Desire what God is doing today
- Be committed to what God is doing today
- Hear God’s orders

When we are properly positioned, we will be ready to fulfill the apostolic call.
Cannistraci (p.44)

Things to Keep in Mind:

- The apostle is a central part in God's end-time harvest plans
- An apostle is called by God and sent by the Holy Spirit
- Apostolic authority is never taken, but is always given (delegated)
- Apostles and prophets are foundation ministers/ministries in the Church (Eph. 2:20)
- Jesus Christ is The Apostle (Heb. 3:1)
- We must understand & follow apostolic principles to receive and move in apostolic power
- God uses ordinary men and women in apostolic ways (Acts 8:1,4)
Seven Scriptural Aspects of the Apostolic Call – Cannistraci (pp. 48-50)

1. The Apostolic (Sending) is deep in the heart of the Father. He sent His son and His son sends us, the Apostolic Flow = Father – Son – the twelve – the seventy – the Church.

2. The Apostolic resides forever in Jesus. He embodies the apostolic. The apostolic is His to give. Paul was called not through human agency, but through Christ. Heb. 3:1

   Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.

   katanoeoô

   From G2596 and G3539; to observe fully:—behold, consider, discover, deceive

   Gal. 1:1

   Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—

3. The ascended Christ gives some to be apostles…

4. Acts 1 – Matthias chosen by God as the apostles asked the Lord to choose

5. 1 Tim 1:1

   Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,

   Speaking of an order

6. The one called is separated and changed forever Rom. 1:1

   Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—
aphorizoô
From G575 and G3724; to set off by boundary, that is, (figuratively) limit, exclude, appoint, etc.:—divide, separate, sever.

7. Apostolic people are distinguished from apostles as Christians who support and participate in apostolic ministry, but are not called to be actual apostles. John 17 18As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. (Apostello)

What can we conclude from all this? The work and expansion of God’s Kingdom on earth began apostolically through Jesus Christ and it will continue and conclude apostolically! The first harvest of souls was brought in apostolically through the power of the Holy Spirit and the final harvest will also be brought in apostolically!

Outstanding features of apostolic people – Cannistraci (pp. 61-66)

- One accord/unity (Acts 1:14), one in heart (Acts 4:32), fellowship (2:42), together (2:1, 44), ate together (2:46), meet together (Acts 12)
- Accepted the word with deep pleasure (Acts 2:41), glad/jumping with joy (Acts 2:46), Gentiles glad/full of cheer (Acts 13:48)
• Diligent (Passion) with a singleness of vision to continue in apostles doctrine, etc. (Acts 2:42)

• Gave what they had and shared/took care of those in need (Acts 2:44; 4:32-35)

• Praised God despite their circumstances (Acts 2:47)

• Gained public favor/the gospel remained good news (Acts 2:47)

• Prayed for the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4; 4:31; anointing & infilling were irreplaceable (Acts 6:3,5; 7:55; 9:17; 11:24; 13:52)

• Bold preaching the word (Acts 4:13,29,31; 9:27,29; 13:46; 14:3; 18:26; 19:8; 28:31) After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. Boldness (parrhesia – all out spokenness, poured forth/out)

• Broke with religion and became new wineskin (Acts 2:46)

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**Five Apostolic Roles of the Holy Spirit**

- **Separates**
  - Acts 13:1-3
- **Sends**
  - Acts 1:8; 10:38
- **Source**
  - Acts 16:6-10
- **Supervisor**
  - I Cor. 9:2; II Cor. 12:12

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*When we calculate the enormous task of world evangelization that has become the responsibility of this generation, we must depend upon a sweeping move of the Holy Spirit as the greatest factor for success.* Cannistraci (p.65)

The Holy Spirit is apostolic in that He has been sent, He sends, and He initiates apostolic ministry.

**Five Roles of the Holy Spirit** (Cannistraci, pp. 69-76)
Acts 13 2While 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.” (aphorizo – set off by boundary, limit, exclude, appoint, divide, separate, mark out, decree, specify) Paul recognized his sphere of ministry & influence set by God

II Cor. 10 12We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. 13We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you. 14We are not going too far in our boasting, as would be the case if we had not come to you, for we did get as far as you with the gospel of Christ. 15Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. For we do not want to boast about work already done in another man’s territory. 17But, “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.” 18For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

Metron – a measure, a limited portion (degree)
Kanon – a straight reed, rod, boundary line, rule of faith & practice
Megaluna – make a great increase, enlarge, magnify
Huperekeina – above these parts, still further, beyond

I Cor. 9 1 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord? 2Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Jesus, Paul & Barnabas and we are sent by the Holy Spirit
The power for apostolic ministry is from the Holy Spirit. Jesus was anointed (smeared) with the Holy Spirit & power (dunamis)
Sphragis – a signet as fencing in or protecting, to fence or enclose, a curb
Acts 16  
Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.  

When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.  

So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.  

During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”  

After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Kaluo – stop, prevent, forbid, hinder, keep from, let, withstand.

Eao – let be, permit

II Cor. 12  
The things that mark an apostle—signs, wonders and miracles—were done among you with great perseverance.

Semeion – sign, token, a mark to indicate, signify

The Holy Spirit is indispensable, without options for apostles, apostolic churches, apostolic people, and apostolic ministry!

Session 10

The Apostolic Movement

Session Ten: How Does Apostolic Ministry Operate?
The Operation of the Apostolic involves the full interaction and inclusion of the following:

- 5-Fold ministry
- Local churches
- Believers

Note: When I use the term apostolic I am referring to the full load – 5-fold ministers, local churches, believers.

Apostolic Responsibilities: (Cannistraci pp. 100-103)


**Overseeing & Strengthening churches** (Peter & John; Barnabas; Paul & Barnabas (Acts 14:21-23); Acts 15:36, 41; 16:5; 20:2 all speak of overseeing & strengthening the churches. *(episterizo)* – support further, reestablish, confirm, strengthen *(epi)* – a primary preposition meaning over or upon and involving a superimposition of time, place, order, direction. *(sterizo)* to set fast, turn resolutely in a certain direction, establish, set steadfastly, strengthen. Linked with a derivative *(histemi)* meaning to stand.

**Leadership Developing** (Training and Ordaining) II Tim. 2:2; Acts 6:1-6; Titus 1:5; Rom. 1:11; I Tim. 4:14; II Tim. 1:6 *(metadidomi)* – to give over, share, impart *(meta)* primary preposition denoting accompaniment. Often used in relation to participation, proximity, transfer, sequence, succession.

**Supervising & coordinating ministry** – apostolic journeys

**Handling Crisis** – Famine relief (Acts 4:34-37; 11:29,30); Discipline (Acts 5:1-11; I Cor. 5); Doctrinal (Acts 15)

**Networking** – apostolic teams working together
Apostolic Instructions

- Go two by two
- Preach, heal, drive out demons
- Travel light
- Stay at house of provision
- Move on to the next city if not welcome or persecuted

The instructions Jesus gave provide the foundation for effective teamwork in apostolic ministry.


*Two by Two sending is most likely a guideline as larger teams are evidenced in Acts. The bottom line is that there is the underlying admonition not to work alone, but as a team. Two by two is in Mark 6:7

*The preaching is to include the nearness of the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 10:7; Luke 10:9); the kingdom of God (Luke 9:2); the gospel (Luke 9:6); repentance (Mark 6:12). Healing and deliverance ministry are prominent.

*Underlying the travel instructions is the factor of mobility, but the obvious issue is the responsibility of those receiving the team to provide for them as they carry out the assigned ministry. Luke 10

5But whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ 6And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you. 7And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house. (oikia) – family residence. The same is indicated in Matt. 10:10.

Jesus is saying that there is a house of provision in every city, town, or village for those He sends.

*The apostles were not to waste time on those homes/towns that did not welcome them. He includes special instructions on how to respond to
persecution Matt. 10 16 I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. *(phronimos)* – thoughtful, discreet, cautious while practical in skill & intelligence. *(akeraios)* unmixed, not complicated. Jesus warns us to be on guard, don’t worry if arrested, and flee to another place when persecuted.

*There does seem to be some evidence that Jesus expected those He sent to report to Him what took place. Mark 6:30*

**30** The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. **31** Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” Also in Luke 9:10; 10:17.

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### Apostolic Teams & Networks

- **Team**: The core apostolic leaders sent by the Holy Spirit for specific and ongoing apostolic missions.

- **Network**: A growing number of churches connected and united under specific and progressive apostolic leadership.

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Apostolic teams are the embryo stage for emerging networks.

**Biblical Examples:**

- Peter & John (Acts 8:14)
- Paul & Barnabas (Acts 13:2,4) Companions (13:14) John Mark departed
- Barnabas & John Mark (Acts 15:37,39)
- Paul & Silas (Acts 15:40) Companions (16:6) Timothy (18:5)
- Apollos & Aquilla & Priscilla (Acts 18:24-28)
The multicultural aspect of these teams was a dynamic feature.

A network is an extension of the team-ministry principle which brought together the variety of apostles, pastors, prophets, teachers and evangelists that were necessary to plant and establish churches throughout the known world.

Cannistraci (p.189)

What is wrong with the above characterization?

Answer: A network is not the team, but the result of the team ministry. The defining element of a network is networking partnerships where a multiple number of churches and ministries partner together to do a comprehensive harvest strategy over a key region of the world.

Major Characteristics of Apostolic Networks

- Team leader of leaders
- Active operation of 5-fold ministry
- Translocal
- Church planting
- Leadership training & sending centers


(Note I do not use the term, “missionary” because it is not found in the Bible and also it is probably too stereotyped)
1. This mission began with contention over who was to be on the team. God works good in the situation as now there were two apostolic teams. Paul & Silas, Barnabas & John Mark
2. Paul’s team quickly became a truly international team with the addition of Timothy, whose father was Greek (16:3)
3. The apostolic team is working interdependently with the apostles & elders in Jerusalem and the church in Antioch
4. The team has a planned mission to revisit the churches, see how they are doing, & deliver the letter from the apostles & elders in Jerusalem
5. The Holy Spirit leads the team to a new target, Macedonia
6. The team is persecuted in Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Corinth.
7. Salvation, healing, & deliverance are released throughout the region and new churches are planted in at least 7 cities
8. A new apostolic team is birthed led by Apollos.
9. The team returns to the church of Antioch. Although not specifically mentioned here, it can be demonstrated that reporting to church leaders all that the Lord did on the journey was a significant part of the pattern.
The fundamental thesis of this book is that the Church cannot be all God wants it to be unless – and until – the divinely ordained government of the Church is solidly in place. Wagner (74)

Prophets can better be what God wants them to be if they agree to become hitched to apostles for the long haul. Wagner (121)

Points to keep in mind:

- For a long time the church has been comfortable with pastors, teachers, & evangelists
- Apostles & prophets did not cease to exist at the end of the 1st century
- All five ascension gifts are important, but only two are specifically designated as the foundation builders of the Church (Eph. 2:19,20)
- Governmentally, apostles come first and then prophets (I Cor. 12:28)
- Pastors did not appoint elders in the church in the Early Church. Apostles appointed elders (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5)
- Greatest advance for God’s kingdom is when apostles & prophets work together (II Chron. 20:20)
Wagner identifies two types of relationships, but a third is also evident.

**Paul-Agabus**: The Apostle & Prophet are tied together for a season or moment – Casual relationship (Note: Paul was staying in the home of Phillip who had four daughters who prophesied) Acts 21 - 

> After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.  
> Coming over to us, he took Paul’s belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, “The Holy Spirit says, ‘In this way the Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.’”  
> When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.  
> Then Paul answered, “Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”  
> When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, “The Lord’s will be done.”

**Paul-Silas**: Apostle & Prophet are harnessed together for the long haul – Structured relationship. Acts 15:32 identifies both Judas and Silas as prophets. Silas continued with Paul beginning with the 2nd apostolic journey.

**Paul-Prophetic Team**: Apostles/Prophets are part of a growing apostolic team (Acts 11:25-30; 13:1)

> In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul.
Barnabas and Paul taught in the Church one year prior to the 1st apostolic journey from Antioch. (Note: Acts 11:25-30 similar team development is evident)

It is only when apostles and prophets are properly harnessed and pulling together that the kingdom of God will advance throughout the world as God desires it to advance in our generation. Wagner (140)
• Prophetic ministry does have Biblical order – I Cor. 14 39\textit{Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.} 40\textit{Let all things be done decently and in order.}
• Without apostolic leadership things only go so far and get out of step
• Pastors alone can be detrimental to expanding the Kingdom if they exclude the apostolic. Also there has been much conflict and confusion in churches where pastors are attempting to pastor prophets.
• Apostles that ignore teamwork and networking partnerships with others are greatly limited
• Prophets on the team can lead to great advances and success.

This is a fitting conclusion to a basic and timely study of the Ephesians 4:11 Team Ministry and the Apostolic Movement. There remains a growing tension between traditional churches and the apostolic restoration. Traditional methods of church planting continue to fail, for the most part. This alone indicates the need for following more closely the apostolic pattern in planting new churches around the world. A new generation of leaders must rise up and boldly challenge the traditional status quo while furiously planting churches according to the apostolic model.