

Session Three

The Reseda Church Structure

*“For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace...
Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”*

1 Cor. 14:33,40

GUIDING BIBLICAL METAPHORS

The structure of the church should *not* be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions.

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE.

I. THE CHURCH IS THE _____

FIRST, THE KINGDOM METAPHOR EMPHASIZES THE UNIVERSAL

_____. A DENOMINATION STRUCTURE OF THE CHURCH DOES NOT HARMONIZE WITH THE KINGDOM VIEW FOR TWO REASONS: THE CHURCH IS SCRIPTURALLY DEFINED IN TWO SENSES:

THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH, WHICH INCLUDES _____

THE LOCAL CHURCH, WHICH IS A SINGLE _____

Secondly, The church as the Lord's kingdom is a united _____; it is the reconciled community of faith. The word 'community' denotes _____.

The top priority in a fellowship is _____ and _____.

"They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the fellowship..." Acts 2:42 (Ph)

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"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Eph. 4:3

"So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together." Rom. 14:19 (Ph)

ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin.

Col. 3:15, 1 Cor. 1:10, 2 Tim. 2:14, Pr. 17:14, 2 Cor. 13:11,
Phil. 1:27, 2:1-3, Col. 2:2, Phil. 4:2, 1 Peter 3:8, 1 Cor. 14:33,
John 13:34-35, 2 Tim. 2:23, Rom. 15:5-6, Rom. 12:16-18,
Col. 3:13-14, Ps. 133:1

IMPLICATION: A GOOD STRUCTURE PROMOTES UNITY AND DOWNPLAYS _____

"(Often)...your meetings do more harm than good because I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you..." 1 Cor. 11:17-18

"Voting" tends to _____

At Reseda, we only take consensus on:

- Ordaining church officials
- Appointing the senior Minister

Thirdly, the government of the church is a _____, and not a democracy.

And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, ²³ Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all. Ephesians 1:22-23.

Fourth, the kingdom of Christ is a _____, and not a temporal or political government.

Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

John 18:36

The kingdom of God does not exist in externals, but in . . .

The _____ of God

The _____ of Christ

The _____ of the Holy Spirit

“For the kingdom does not exist in meat and drink, but in righteousness, and peace, and Joy in the Holy Ghost.” Romans 14:17

II. THE CHURCH IS A _____

“You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.” 1 Peter 3:8 (LB)

Gal. 6:10, Heb. 2:10-12, 1 Peter 4:17

SO WE OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF _____ NOT _____

*“Don’t reprimand a senior member of the church, appeal to him as a **father**. Treat the young men as **brothers**, and the older women as **mothers**. Treat the younger women as **sisters**...” 1 Tim. 5:1-2 (Ph)*

*“(An Elder) must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to **manage his family**, how can he **take care of God’s church**?” 1 Tim. 3:4-5 (Jesus’ favorite description of the church)*

John 10:1-30, Matt. 26:31, Matt. 25:33

III. THE CHURCH IS A _____

THEREFORE, IT IS CARED FOR AND LED BY _____

“Jesus asked Simon Peter, ‘Do you really love me?’ ‘Yes Lord,’ said Peter. ‘Then **take care** of my sheep.’”
John 21:16-17

Three different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the *same* church leaders:

- “POIMEN”
- PRESBUTEROS”
- EPISCOPOS”

“To the **elders** I say...**Be shepherds** of God’s flock, serving as **overseers**...” 1 Pet. 5:1-2

“Paul sent to Ephesus for the **elders** of the church. When they arrived he said to them... Guard yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**. **Be pastors** of the church of God...” Acts 20:17-18, 28

IV. THE CHURCH IS A _____

1 Cor. 12:27, Eph. 5:23, Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18, 2:19

We are a body — not a business!

We are an organism — not an organization!

THEREFORE, WE FUNCTION ON THE BASIS OF _____
NOT _____

“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have **different gifts** according to the grace given us.” Rom. 12:4-6

In an organization, “maintenance” becomes the focus. But in an organism, “ministry” is the focus.

AT THE RESEDA CHURCH WE HAVE A SIMPLE STRUCTURE SO WE CAN MAXIMIZE _____ AND
MINIMIZE _____

“God gave...some to be Evangelists, pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for **works of ministry**, so that the body of Christ may be built up...” Eph. 4:11-12

V. THE CHURCH IS A _____

The fifth guiding metaphor related to the biblical structure of the ministry is that **the church is a** _____.

THE PEOPLE ARE THE _____

THE PASTORS, CALLED ELDERS AND BISHOPS ARE THE _____

THE PREACHERS ARE THE _____

VI. THE CHURCH IS A _____

This analogy pictures God's design for the church as the New Heavenly Sanctuary built upon principles that are designed to promote _____ and _____.

The Temple was designed by God to sustain the unity of the covenant community by conducting a _____ in a _____ place, John 4:20-24.

The church as a Sanctuary or Temple for meeting in Presence of God is a reflection of God's work in Christ of _____. 2 Cor. 5:18f.

John 4:21-24

SCRIPTURAL MANDATES RELATED TO OUR STRUCTURE

The Priesthood Principle: **THE PEOPLE ARE THE “_____”**.

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. ..⁹ But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: I Peter 2:5, 9

The Flock Principle: THE PASTORS (ELDERS) ARE THE “_____”

The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: ² Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; ³ Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.
I Peter 5:1-3.

The Kingdom Principle: THE PREACHERS ARE THE “_____”.

⁷ Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation. Hebrews 13:7

The Body Principle: The Members are _____

From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, makes increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:16

The Family Principle: Governance is on the basis of _____

Rebuke not an elder, but entreat *him* as a father; *and* the younger men as brethren; ² The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity. I Timothy 5:1-2.

Our Structural Model: How we fulfill Our Purposes

Our ministry model is best described as a _____ structure

The primary mechanism through which the purposes of the church are fulfilled is in small units called _____.

Four aspects of our weekly cell meeting

_____ - Building authentic relationship

_____ - Praise and Prayer

_____ - Life applications of the Word

_____ - encouraging ministry and outreach

Where pastors do their managing is in _____ groups. There are two type of leadership cells, which are:

_____ - Meets weekly for governance and to administer support to Ministry Leaders

_____ - Meets twice per month for shepherding Ministry Leaders

The corporate gathering of the church for worship is called the _____.

Which is where the _____ administers the Word of God to the entire church.

Christian worship must be _____.

WHAT IS MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

Being a member of the body of Christ means that you have completed three Scriptural requirements, which are as follows:

You are _____ to Christ, Acts 3:19

You are _____ relationally to fellowship of Believers, Ephesians 1:22

You are _____ to fulfill the purposes of the church. Ephesians 2:

FIVE PRINCIPLES CELL-BASED DEVELOPMENT

What We Practice

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following five practices:

1. A = AUTHENTIC WORSHIP

Jesus says that the Father seeks true worshippers. He made this statement against the background of the Old Testament system of rituals. New Covenant worship is called true worship inasmuch as it fosters a true experience of the righteousness of faith. Every aspect of Christian worship in some way demonstrates righteous faith. While worship involves the tithing of time, treasure and talents, it is in essence the presentation of ourselves to God based upon the experience of His mercies toward us. We value true worship----the giving of tithes and offerings to God.

The word tithing simply means ten percent. It's the way we finance this church. We don't finance it through bingo or raffles or any kind of gimmicks like that. We finance this church through the members giving ten percent of what they earn back to the church. Nobody's ever going to come check up on you. Nobody's ever going to knock on your door, "You're about three months behind. Let's cough up some back pay!" Never! It's between you and God. We feel like if we teach you what the Bible says, then it becomes something between you and God. It is the responsibility of the people who commit themselves to membership here to give and support the work of the church.

2. T = TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

The primary role of a leader is to equip others to serve. Therefore, authentic leadership is transformational; they transform saints into servants. God transforms the sinner who enters the church into a saint. He uses transformed leaders in the second phase of His sanctifying work, which is to transform the saint into a servant of God's love. Authentic leaders are functional, rather than positional leaders who create bottleneck ministry.

3. E = EMPOWERING MEMBERS TO SERVE

We are committed to practicing the priesthood of all believers in Christ. This is another doctrine very close to my heart. 1 Peter 2:9 and Revelation 1:6 "*Christ loves us and by His death He has freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve God. ... You are the King's priests, God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God.*" Nobody here wears special clothes, a special collar or a special robe. You and I are all priests before God. We don't need anybody to stand between us and God anymore. Jesus Christ did that by His death and resurrection. You don't need another human being to stand on your behalf in front of God. Because of that we all have equal access to God.

This value relates also grounded in the biblical concept of local church autonomy. We value local church autonomy. Jesus Christ is the head of this church. Not Dewayne, not

the elders. Jesus Christ is the head of this church, the recognized honored head of this church. Because of that, we are a body and we work together. He is the source of our life. There is value in associating with other Christians, other groups of Christians. We will be talking about that. But this church makes its own decisions about its land, its property. No brotherhood control from outside can tell us what to do with our land or tell the Minister to move to another church. This church makes its own decisions about those kinds of things. We are autonomous.

4. A = ATTRACTING THE COMMUNITY

We value the spiritual attraction of exalting the risen Christ. Jesus says, “If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me. The task of the church is to glorify Christ as risen Savior. The unbelieving world is attracted to Christ by cultivating the presence of Christ in the believer’s life and in the life of the church.

5. M = MULTIPLYING SMALL GROUPS

The mission of all of our small groups is to multiply the group ministry. The goal of each group is to break into pieces and create of group ministries throughout their community. Each small group is a microcosm of the church whose mission is to break into pieces and consume the kingdoms of this world to make them the kingdom of our God in His Christ. While each group has an Apprentice Leaders being trained for cell group division, each group sees its members as potential group leaders.

In short, we'd like to have the kind of contagious Christianity that can influence and transform the entire community, one life at a time.