

02 THE WORK OF AN APOSTLIC CHURCH

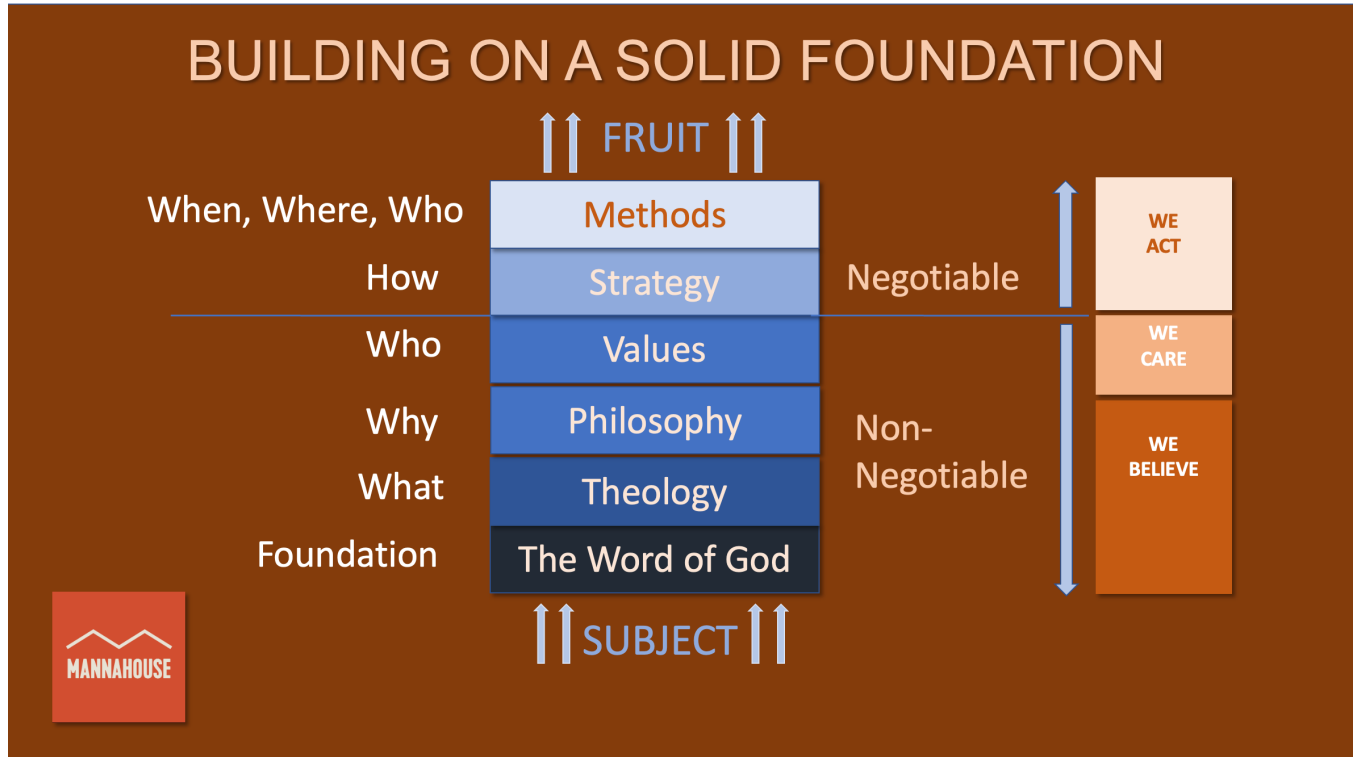
Introduction

Today I want to talk about **“The Work of an Apostolic Church.”** It is evident that there is a unique call upon your pastors and upon this church to expand the kingdom locally- globally. Many churches have local impact, a few have global impact. **#Prophetic words from Eric & Jon-Jon, and national leaders.**

1. **“The call upon a house, is a call upon the people.” You are the church; its people. God brought you here. He saw something in you greater than yourself & your wildest imaginations. He has orchestrated your placement for His purposes. You are a part of the divine plan. **YOU ARE A LEGO!** Although you may not individually have an apostolic gifting, you are part of an apostolic grace, and the mantle of the house fall on you. **RECOGNIZE! EMBRACE!****
2. When an apostolic leader AND their church is properly functioning in their role, the kingdom of God is extended. When there is an absence or abuse of this office-person the church is stagnant or declines. This applies to an Apostolic Church as well. **This applies ALL in this room. YOUR FUNCTION MATTERS**
3. The Apostle Paul gives detailed instructions about critical role of the Apostle in building the church. **Ephesians 4:11-13 ESV** And he gave **the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,** ¹² **to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,** ¹³ **until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.**
1 Corinthians 12:28 ESV And God has appointed in the church **first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.**
4. These are five ascension gifts, given by Christ to build the church. These ascension gifts pertain to the person & their office, not just the spiritual gift given to the believer as stated in **1 Cor. 12 or Rom. 12.**
5. **The type and blend of ascension gifts in any local church also build the culture and legacy of that church.** Proper five-fold balance is essential for healthy thriving churches.
#Prophetic only = mystic/subjective. Pastoral only = healthy introverted. Evangelist = shallow
6. **Paul is given us the blueprint for building and establishing the local church.** Each of these Five-Fold ministries play a key role in the building and expanding of the church. And each one unique!
7. In addition, he brings people with Spiritual Gifts, members of the same body to function in building the church locally and globally. What you are building goes BEYOND your ministry. **#Future Church Planter!**
Recently I built a new house. There was skilled craftsman from different trades that worked together to build my house. There were **foundation workers, brick layers, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, and painters. Each plays a unique role in building the house. So, it is in building the house of God.**
8. One of these craftsmen that are key to building the church is the **Apostle**. They are the **“First”** the builder, pioneer, and forerunner. They lay the foundation for all the rest to be built on.
9. To be effective in what we are called to do, it is imperative that we understand **three key ingredients** to do the work. I want to talk about...
 - **The Blueprint** – **What** is an Apostle and an Apostolic Church?

- The Workers – **Who** are the workers and what should they be doing? **EACH OF YOU!**
- The Jobsite – **What** are we building? - **ACTS 1:8 = Neighborhoods to Nations**

Most in this room, may not fully grasp the role of an Apostle or the function of an Apostolic church. Today, I would like to take you on a journey to help better define the call on your pastors, your church AND YOU! I want you to see the leadership foundation in which we can build this thought today:



II. The Blueprint - What is an Apostle?

A. Biblical Definition

1. An Apostle is derived from the Greek word, "Apostolos." This word literally translated is, ***"One who is sent forth."***
2. During time in which Paul wrote, it was a term commonly used in **Naval Expeditions**. An Apostle was one who was an admiral or commander of a naval expedition or a fleet of ships. When a fleet of ships was sent by Rome **to establish a new economy elsewhere**, these leaders were called, Apostles.
3. In Biblical Terms, this office is mentioned **79 times** in NT and represents those leaders who are appointed by Jesus to establish new works in other regions. **They were, 'commissioned messengers.'**

B. Apostolic Confusion and Abuse Today – **Maybe even in this room today!!!**

1. The office of an Apostle has been wrongly defined

There is a Biblical sequence to the history and office of an apostle. **4 TYPES MENTIONED IN NT**

- Christ, the Chief Apostle [Hebrews 3:1]
- The Twelve Apostles of the Lamb – Those chosen by Jesus. [Revelation 21:14]
- Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles – Stands unique and distinct from others. [Rom. 1; 1 Cor.1 etc.]
- Ascension Gift Apostles – Those mentioned in Ephesians 4 and the Epistles

It is the Ascension Gift Apostles that still exist today; none of the other types.

2. The Office of an apostle has been taught to be extinct [A.G., Mainline, Fundamentalists]

- Many believe it was limited to a period between Old Covenant and New Covenant.
- It was a temporary gift given to a few unique leaders in Book of Acts to establish the church.
- Upon the death of the Apostle John, this special gift was no longer required.
- Yet Ephesians tells us, longer after death of John that these Ascension Ministries were needed
Eph. 4:13. **"UNTIL the church comes to full unity and maturity"** Hasn't happened yet. ways to go.

3. The office of an Apostle has been sadly abused

On another note, many who believed this give to be relevant for today, have used this platform to build ministries and names for themselves. This abuse caused many to become autocratic, authoritarians, control-freaks and it sadly resulted in many churches and people be ruined!

#Seeing some of this today before our eyes. Fall of national/international leaders.

C. Modern Day Definition of an Apostle and an Apostolic Church– WHAT WE BELIEVE!

"An Apostle is a five-fold, fathering-servant who has dedicated their life to equipping leaders to build healthy, growing, maturing and multiplying churches."

"An apostolic church is a local church with the call and vision to multiply themselves beyond their own local church, through planting healthy, growing, maturing and multiplying churches, sending missionaries and marketplace leaders to reach and transform cities and nations. **SAY THIS IS ME!**

III. The Workers – SEVEN PRIMARY WORKS of an Apostle Leader and Church

It is important to distinguish the difference between the work and the workers. In the NT, no two apostles or apostolic churches were the same in ministry style of function. Therefore, it is important that we don't try to assume that every apostolic leader or church functions in the same manner as others.

Yet, there are some non-negotiables that must be the foundation to the WORKS of every Apostolic Church.
THIS IS THE CALL UPON YOUR PASTORS AND YOU! SUN CITY CHURCH!

1. Apostolic Churches help plant and establish healthy local churches on proper foundation.

Ephesians 2:19-21 ESV but **you are** fellow citizens with **the saints and members of the household of God,** ²⁰ **built on the foundation of the apostles** and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, **being joined together,** grows into a holy temple in the Lord

Paul is referring to an Apostle, their ministry AND church, which establishes foundations. He not only wanted to make sure the church was built on the right biblical foundation **but with the right foundational leaders, YOU!** Much of his writings and ministry trips were focused on establishing right foundations AND leaders for local churches.

#There is a certain gift-mix, grace, temperament that goes with an Apostle. You see this in (DANNY AND JAMIE) They desire that other gifts function, but their default is to build, plow and expand!

YOU WILL get the privilege to help others in your area of ministry grow great churches. They will come from different locations to learn from you. You will begin to see what you built here multiplied!

2. Apostolic Churches are passionate to establish and protect Biblical doctrine.

Acts 2:42 ESV And they **[YOU]** devoted themselves **to the apostles' teaching** and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Apostles made sure the church was built on the Word of God. They knew right doctrine was key to building a healthy church and healthy people. It was their primary tool for all they did. **#MAIN KEY TODAY**

#MH Resource and PBC – it is part of our recipe. Desire to multiple our theology, distinctives, DNA.

Sun City Leadership College, Interns, Residencies...

YOU NEED TO BE GROUNDED IN WORD!

3. Apostolic Churches are committed to the care, development, and correction of church leaders.

Acts 15:36 ESV And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord and **see HOW they are.**”

Paul cared “**HOW**” they were doing as much as “**WHAT**” they were doing. He was always working to care for, encourage, adjust, and develop those leaders God entrusted to his care.

#1 missing ingredient in networks, movements, and denominations today! Tragic KEY TO MGM/SC

You are starting your own “Family of Churches” These are your spiritual kids. They need you!

4. Apostolic Churches are dedicated to feeding, training, and releasing others in ministry.

2 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses **entrust to faithful men**, who will be able to teach others also. **4X Factor seen here. Same with Eph. 4:11-13**

Paul also spent much of his life training and releasing people in ministry. Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Epaphroditus and more. He would establish leaders and then empower them to lead. He would be there to continually mentor as well. MULTIPLICATION SEED! THIS SEED MUST BE IN YOU!

#Must have your other! Your next. Who are you raising up? Name? Time? Strategy?

TO SEND, OR FOR YOU TO GO! Pipeline must be continually full.

#Must have a MOVEMENT MODEL MINDSET - a John 17, kingdom-minded, collaborative culture that works with, celebrates other churches and ministries. They are NOT competitive, territorial, or exclusive.

5. Apostolic Churches willingly invest their resources in other churches and leaders.

Colossians 1:6-7 ESV just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸ and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

Paul didn’t plant the church in Colossae, but because he had a father’s heart for all leaders, he willingly invested his time and energy to help Epaphras with his leadership pressures. **#MH and SC Family!**

6. Apostolic Churches are needed to assist with church judgements and disciplines.

3 John 9-10 ESV I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority. ¹⁰ So if I come, **I will bring up what he is doing**, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church. **#Working on complex case right now!**

Many other examples as well. Ananias and Sapphira [Acts 5:1-11], Elymas, the Sorcerer [Acts 13:11], Corinthian fornicators [1 Corinthians 4:21; 5:1-13], False Doctrine Issues [1 Timothy 1:20], Division Issues [Romans 16:17]. **#I have dealt with many over the years, helping pastors, elders and churches.**

Many church planters don’t have the wisdom or experience to deal with complex issues.

Season Apostolic Leaders are necessary to help with these circumstances to minimize the fall out of significant crisis issues. **NOT a control or authoritarian approach. Permission determined first.**

7. Apostolic Churches are involved in ordaining and setting in new ministry leaders.

Acts 6:5-6 ESV ... and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and **they prayed and laid their hands on them.**

Apostolic Leaders have a leadership mantle that God recognizes and uses for setting people into ministry, for ordination and for prophetic ministry.

PROPHECY – THERE WILL BE MANY THAT WILL BE SENT. GET USED TO IT BE EXCITED GET READY NOW

IV. The Jobsite – The Ingredients of an Apostolic Church – MOVEMENT SHAPERS

Say with me, “I AM A MOVEMENT SHAPER.”

We are not building our church, our way with our design. It is Christ’s church. He is the Master Builder and has a Master Plan, which require key ingredients. He commanded us to follow HIS Plan. The blueprint for His church is the **Book of Acts** (The history... His-Story... of the New Testament Church).

#My new house didn’t just need the **right workers** but needed ALL the **right ingredients** to be a healthy house. Foundation, walls, windows, roof, inks, and toilets, light fixtures, floor covering, paint, décor. All items made the house. All items needed to be set in the right place and right order. Imagine if one was missing? Imagine if one was put in wrong place or order? House would be incomplete or dysfunctional. No roof? No foundation? No windows or doors?

As you build your church as a model for other churches, **there are 12 MOVEMENT MARKERS, that mark our movement. They are our Distinctives!** there are ingredients that are needed for building the right house:

These Markers are contextualized different in every Family of Churches and every local church. There is distinction in each, but oneness of values in all.

Wherever you lead or serve, you must strive to build these MARKERS in your area so that it builds the culture of the entire house.

1. A Presence- Filled Church

Acts 2:1-2 On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was **a sound from heaven** like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and **it filled the house** where they were sitting.

Acts 2:46 They worshipped together at the Temple each day...

-Moses - Exodus 33

-Joshua - Remained at the tent – Was called to advance God’s people.

#MH and MFI – Presence driven leaders; part of presence driven Movement!

#YOUR CHURCH – Services, Youth, Children, YA, Small Groups, etc. all must have presence-filled mindset.

2. A Spirit-Driven church

Acts 1:4-5 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall **be baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now.”

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when **the Holy Spirit** has come upon you;

- a. We are Holy Spirit people.
- b. We believe in baptism of the Holy Spirit
- c. We believe the Holy Spirit leads us in all we do.
- d. We believe in the Gifts of Spirit.

Acts – 3 of 4 mentions = Speaking in Tongues
Romans 8:14; Galatians 6
1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12; Eph. 4

- e. We believe in the power, anointing of the Holy Spirit. [Acts 3:1-4](#)
- f. We believe the Fruit of the Spirit is developed in us. [Galatians 5:22-23](#)
- g. We desire to see the Spirit move with order [1 Corinthians 14:40](#)

QUESTION: How is Holy Spirit thriving in your area of ministry. Your own life?

3. A Word-Centered Church

[Acts 2:42-46](#) And they continued steadfastly in the **apostles' doctrine**

- a. The Bible is the infallible Word of God.
- b. We live by it and die by it!
- c. It is our guiding light and life manual.
- d. We must teach with right doctrine. **EVEN WHEN IT'S UNPOPULAR!**
#Race, Gender, sexual orientation, politics, identity, etc.

Each of you must be standing on word and not driven by culture, social media, news, etc.

4. A Prophetic Church

[Acts 11:27-28](#) ESV Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ And one of them named Agabus stood up and **foretold by the Spirit** that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius).

- a. We believe God still speaks today.
- b. The prophetic gifts in NT is to confirm, edify, comfort, reveal. IT is also to be tested!
- c. The prophetic is also an atmosphere and culture – We are to sense where He's taking us!
- d. He wants us to know the mind and heart of Himself regarding His kingdom.
- e. He doesn't want us confused, double-minded, but filled with clarity and faith. [Col. 3:1](#)

5. A Gospel-Centered Church

[Acts 2:38](#) "... Then Peter said to them, **(This is the full truth)** "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.

- a. The gospel is not at work at the point of salvation only, but should drench all aspects, everyday!
- b. The gospel should provoke us to be intolerant of sin, live a holy, selfless life.
- c. The gospel empowers us to align our behaviors with our beliefs.
- d. The gospel develops our testimony, as a light and salt to the world
- e. The gospel brings redemption, cleansing, power, purity, to all people in all times.
- f. The gospel must be evident in all aspects of church ministries, services, programs, groups etc.
- g. The gospel is holistic! It isn't just for salvation. True evidence of broader GOSPEL Doctrine is seen in...

SHEDDINGS OF THE BLOOD.

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Sweat blood: | Luke 22:44 | <u>Redemption</u> – Salvation |
| 2. Back flogged: | Matthew 27:26; Isaiah 53:5 | <u>Healing</u> from all diseases [body]. |
| 3. Crown of Thorns: | Matthew 27:29; Colossians 3:1 | <u>Kingdom Mindedness</u> |
| 4. Beaten and Bruised: | Isaiah 53:5 | <u>Freedom</u> , Internal healing [Soul]. |
| 5. Spikes in hands: | Matthew 27:35 | <u>Hands cleansed</u> for work, receive inheritance. |
| 6. Spikes in feet: | Luke 23:33, Luke 10:19 | <u>Dominion and authority</u> to walk out life. |
| 7. Spear in his side: | John 19:33-35 | <u>Heal broken hearted</u> , grief, pain, sorrow, cleansing of all. |

6. An Evangelistic Church

Acts 1:8 ... and you shall be my **witnesses** [maturion] to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 2:40-41 ... Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls **were added** to them.

Acts 4:4 ... and the number of the men **added** were 5000...

- Jesus came to seek and save the lost [Luke 19:10]. We are called to do the same.
- Lost people matter to God. Leave 99 to go after 1. **#Every heartbeat someone dies w/out Jesus**
- The church was never intended to be a love boat, but a battleship.
- The church is not a hospital for hypocrites, but headquarters for heroes.
- The world is in desperate need of Jesus. He is their **ONLY** hope.
- We have the answer, and must urgently share it with a world in need of Him.

#You are a city reaching church, not an average-community-only church. It is in your DNA!

#Every ministry should be a reaching ministry.

7. An Interceding Church

Acts 1:14 ESV All these with one accord were **devoting themselves to prayer**, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Over 30 times Acts records prayer taking place

- Prayer is the fuel in which the church is empowered. Also fuel in which the Apostle is empowered!
- A prayerless church is a stagnant dying church.
- We wrestle not against flesh and blood but principalities and powers.

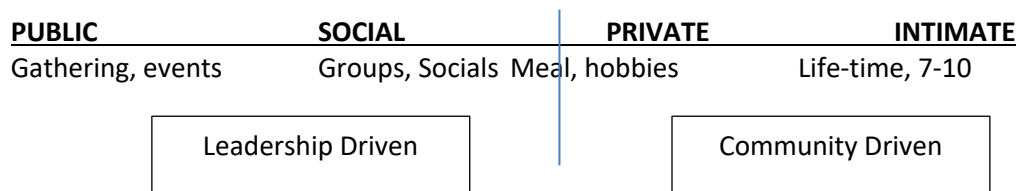
8. A People-Focused, Community-Minded Church

Acts 2:44 Now all who believed **were together**, and had all things in common...

- The church is not an organization with programs, but a community with people.
- The church is a group of people devoted to each other. **#Mutual care vs. hierarchy care.**
- The church is a community of people who do life together; lasting, covenant relationships.
- The church is a blending of all races and ethnicities within your region.

Four Levels of Organizational Community #SEE SLIDE AND REFER TO DETAILS

Edward T. Hall 1960's Sociologists



9. A Team-Ministry Church

Acts 13:1 Now there were in the church at Antioch **prophets** and **teachers**, **Barnabas**, **Simeon** who was called **Niger**, **Lucius** of Cyrene, **Manaen** a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and **Saul**.

- We believe in the priesthood of **ALL** believers. [Ephesians 2:10, 1 Peter 2:9] **#Dream Team**
- We believe **ALL** believers have been given spiritual gifts. [1 Cor. 12, Romans 12, Eph. 4]
- We believe **ALL** people were created with a purpose. [Jeremiah 29:11; Psalm 139; Eph. 1:4-5]
- We believe we are to equip **ALL** the saints for the work of ministry. [Eph. 4:11]

10. A Servant-Spirited Church

Acts 2:45 and they sold their possessions and goods, and **divided them among all**, as anyone had need.

- a. The spirit of the church and the primary character attribute of the apostle is SERVANTHOOD.
- b. Jesus didn't come to be served, but to serve [Matthew 20:28; Philippians 2]
- c. The greatest in the kingdom of God are those who serve.
- d. We created this culture by modeling it first in our own leadership!

#Serpa – Human Mule – Mt. Everest.

10. A Generous Church

Acts 2:45 and **sold their possessions and goods**, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

- a. The kingdom of God is primarily advanced and funded by God's people.
- b. Generosity is the greatest indicator that a church's heart is right.
- c. Same with the leader! Generosity starts first with us.
- d. Generosity is in all areas; our time, talents and treasures!
- e. IF you want to receive supernatural provision, you have to give it first. Reap what you sow.
- f. Must build a culture, strategy that is imbedded in everyday life of church!

11. A Unified Church

Acts 2:44 And **all** who believed were together and had **all** things in common.

John 17:23 that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me

One of the greatest moves of God today in the body of Christ is the coming together of believers everywhere. Competition, division, comparison, judging is being broken down.

DIAGRAM– The Great Commission, The Great Commandment, The Great Collaboration

CONCLUSION

1. This is what God had in mind when he built His church. You have been called as an Apostle Church to...
 - Follow The Blueprint – Understand Your Role and Your Goal.
 - Equip The Workers – build them up to do the work.
 - Make sure the right ingredients are on the jobsite.