

- When Jesus gave His physical body, and we embraced His work on the cross, we were set free from the regulations of the Old Covenant
- But now Jesus has given us His spiritual body, and we must embrace His work through the church, so that we can be set free from all of the struggles in our flesh

- The primary function of apostolic leadership is to develop an atmosphere in every local church, an atmosphere of security, and safety, and respect, and love, and support, but also an atmosphere of transparency, and honesty, and submission, and accountability, where we can be healed, mended, restored, and made whole, and learn how to live as a covenantal family
- a) The leadership models covenantal community and accountability
- b) The leadership develops an atmosphere where the Holy Spirit is allowed to minister

- c) The leadership provides regular opportunities for inner healing and transformation
- d) The leadership develops a family atmosphere, where everyone has opportunity, to form transparent and transforming relationships
- e) The leadership steps in when the normal process of transformation isn't effective
- f) The leadership provides "tailor-made" opportunities for people to deal with weaknesses, and develop healthy relational skills
- g) The leadership gives you regular opportunities to make covenants with the local church

THE FUNCTION OF 'PERFECTING'

Romans 12:5, NIV – "*so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*"

The function of the apostolic leadership is to help you to belong to each other

All ministry, all effectiveness, all blessing flows out of this function.

THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH

Part 4 – Apostolic Function Defined

David Hibbert – July 27, 2003

APOSTOLIC FUNCTION

Ephesians 4:11-16, NIV – (11) *It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, (12) to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up (13) 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. (14) Then 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. (15) Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. (16) From 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.*

Ephesians 4:12, NASB – "*for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;*"

Ephesians 4:12, KJV – "*For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*"

Ephesians 4:12, LITERAL –

"For the perfecting (equipping, preparing) of the saints (Christians), to the work (deeds) of ministry, to building (up-building, edification) of the body of Christ."

- So apostolic task is to perfect the saints for 2 reasons:
 - a) So that they can minister
 - b) So that the body of Christ is built together

PERFECTING THE SAINTS

1. The Meaning Of 'Perfecting'

- a) Definition
 - "Perfecting" (Greek = katarismos)
 - Not "training"
 - Is a medical term – "to set a bone in place"
 - "To put a bone or a part of the human body into right relationship with the other parts of the body so that every part fits thoroughly"

b) Other uses of word:

i. Mending - Matthew 4:21, NASB – “*And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, **mending** [katartizo] their nets; and He called them.*”

To mend a net meant:

- A. Cleaning it
- B. Repairing all the broken sections, so that it was restored into a mesh, where each piece of rope was a part of the whole
- C. Testing each piece, to ensure that each piece would hold and support the whole

Ephesians 4:16, NIV – “*From 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.*”

ii. Restoring - Galatians 6:1, NIV – “*Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should **restore** [katartizo] him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.*”

To restore someone who sinned meant:

- A. Reveal the sin
- B. Root out the real problem that caused him to sin
- C. Minister healing to the root issues
- D. Give opportunity to ensure that healing has taken place, and provide follow-up
- E. Return to ministry

c) Full Meaning

- In each verse, the main thought is to bring or restore a person into healthy relationships with others
- So ... “**equip**” or “**prepare**” or “**perfect**” means to bring each person to wholeness, and then set them relationally into the body of Christ where they can function as part of a team

2. **Anyone Can Be Trained**

- God trained Balaam’s donkey to minister prophetically
- God trained a whale for bus ministry
- God trained ravens to do food distribution to the needy

3. **Perfecting: Bringing To Wholeness And Setting In Place**

- The most important thing is to bring each person into a place of personal and relational wholeness, and then set them in place in the body, so that we can live with each other, and minister together, to advance the kingdom of God

Colossians 3:15, NIV – “*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.*”

4. **Our Historic Error – Training But Not Perfecting**

- No matter how many gifts, talents, abilities, anointing and revelation you have, if you don’t receive relational wholeness, and if you don’t learn how to function relationally, your ministry will not last very long

5. **What About Ministry?**

Acts 6:1-4, NIV – (1) *In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. (2) So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. (3) Brothers, [you] choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them (4) and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”*”

How should ministries start?

- a) You Receive God’s Burden For A Specific Ministry
- b) You Submit That Burden To Leadership, For Discernment
- c) You Receive “Perfecting”
- d) You Start The Ministry With Your Team
- e) You Co-ordinate With The Body, And Receive Ongoing Support

6. **How To Cooperate, With The Ministry Of ‘Perfecting’**

- The ministry of perfecting cannot occur, without an unshakeable commitment, to be in interdependent relationship with others

Romans 7:4, NIV – “*So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God.*”