

4. Title Is By Function And Relationship

1 Corinthians 9:2, NIV – “Even 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.”

Philippians 2:25, NIV – “But I [Paul] think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger [apostle], whom you sent to take care of my needs.”

- Because apostolic ministry is by function and relationship, the title is only as valid as the relationship

5. Apostles And Prophets Partner Together

a) Apostles And Prophets Lay Foundations

Ephesians 2:19-20, NIV – “... God's household, (20) built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.”

b) Apostles And Prophets Receive Strategic Revelation From God

Ephesians 3:4-5, NIV – “(4) ... my insight into the mystery of Christ, (5) which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.”

6. Apostles, Prophets And Teachers Administrate The Larger Church Structure

1 Corinthians 12:28, NIV – “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.”

- Enumerating the 1st three, then using the word “then”, sets apart the 1st three from the rest in terms of church government.
- Evangelists are outward focused
- Pastors are inward focused
- Apostles, prophets and teachers see the “bigger picture” of the local church as well as the regional church

7. Where Do We Go From Here?

- We need your patience
- We need your flexibility
- We need your cooperation
- We need a little time

THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH

Defining Leadership

David Hibbert – May 25, 2003

LEADERSHIP IDENTITY: SONS AND DAUGHTERS

Galatians 3:26,29 NIV – “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus ... and heirs according to the promise.”

Romans 8:19, NIV – “The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.”

LEADERSHIP ROLES: ELDERS AND DEACONS

Philippians 1:1, NIV – “Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons.”

1. Elders

Elder (Greek) = “presbuteros” = elder, presbyter

a) Overseer, Shepherd And Keep Watch

Acts 20:17-18,28, NIV – “(17) ... Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. ... (18) When they arrived, he said to them: ... (28) ‘Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.’”

b) Serve As Examples (Role Models)

1 Peter 5:1-3, NIV – “(1) To the elders among you, ... (2) Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers ... eager to serve; (3) not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.”

c) Appointed By The Apostolic As The Key Leaders In The Church

Acts 14:23, NIV – “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.”

d) Decision Makers In The Church

Acts 15:6, NIV – “The apostles and elders met to consider this question.”

- Apostles – trans-local church counselors
- Elders – internal local church decision makers

e) Direct The Affairs Of The Church

1 Timothy 5:17, NIV – “The elders who direct the affairs of the church, well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.”

Elders are parents of the church family. They must:

- i. Make decisions (for present and future)
- ii. Oversee finances & expenditures
- iii. Bring correction
- iv. Train children

f) Always A Plurality (A Plural Number)

Titus 1:5, NIV – “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.”

g) Qualifications: 1 Timothy 3:1-7

2. Deacons

Deacon (Greek) = “Diakonos” = servant, minister

a) Servants Of The Church

1 Timothy 3:10, NIV – “They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.”

b) Oversee Ministries In The Church

Acts 6:1, 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. ...”

c) Chosen By Church, Commissioned By Elders

Acts 6:5-6, NIV – “(5) This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, [etc.] ... (6) They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.”

d) Qualifications: 1 Timothy 3:8-13

LEADERSHIP FUNCTIONS: FIVE-FOLD MINISTERS

1. The Five Motivational Ministers

Ephesians 4:11-13, 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.”

- a) Apostles - Architects (master builders) who build
 - Hand: Thumb ... covers other fingers, helps form a strong fist
 - Function: Pastor of the five-fold fold ministers, lay foundations in church
- b) Prophets – Seers Who Communicate Divine Inspiration
 - Hand: Pointing finger ... points the way
 - Function: Cast vision, reveal revelation, speak destiny, but don't do fortune-telling
- c) Evangelists – Soul Winners Who Proclaim Good News
 - Hand: Centre finger ... reaches beyond the others
 - Function: Evangelize, teach evangelism, organize evangelistic ministry
- d) Pastors – Shepherds Who Love The Sheep
 - Hand: Ring finger ... covenant with the body
 - Function: Care for, protect, nurture the local church
- e) Teachers – Disciplers Who Train Others
 - Hand: Little finger ... get into things
 - Function: Teach, reveal, lay bear, instruct

2. Multi-Functioning Ministers

2 Timothy 1:11, NIV – “And of this gospel I [Paul] was appointed a herald [evangelist?] and an apostle and a teacher.”

3. Many Apostles (29 Mentioned By Name)

See insert.

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- a) Jesus - Hebrews 3:1, NIV – “Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.”
- b) The Twelve - Matthew 10:2-3, NIV – “(2) These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew: James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; (3) Philip and Bartholomew: Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; (4) Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.”
- c) Matthias - Acts 1:26, NIV – “Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.”
- d) Paul - Romans 1:1, NIV – “Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God.”
- e) Barnabas - Acts 14:14, NIV – “But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this ...”
- f) Andronicus And Junias - Romans 16:7, NIV – “Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.”
- g) James The Brother Of Jesus - Galatians 1:19, NASB – “But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the Lord's brother.”
- h) Silas (Silvanus) And Timothy - 1 Thessalonians 1:1:2:6, NIV – “(1) Paul, Silas and Timothy, ... (6) ... As apostles of Christ ...”
- i) Apollos - 1 Corinthians 4:6,9, NIV – “(6) ... I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit ... (9) For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display ...”
- j) Erastus - Acts 19:22, NIV – “He [Paul] sent two of his helpers [apostles, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he stayed in the province of Asia a little longer.”
- k) Tychicus - 2 Timothy 4:12, NIV – “I sent Tychicus to Ephesus.” [literally – “I apostled Tychicus to Ephesus” or “I released Tychicus as an apostle”.
- l) Ephaphroditus - Philippians 2:25, NIV – “But I [Paul] think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger [apostle], whom you sent to take care of my needs.”
- m) Titus And Two Un-Named Brothers - 2 Corinthians 8:23, NIV – “As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives [apostles] of the churches and an honor to Christ.”
- n) Possibly Judas Called Barsabbas - Acts 15:22, NIV – “Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas – Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas ...”

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