

- Our goal is not to decide what needs to be done in this city or region – that would be our agenda – instead, our goal is to discern what Jesus is doing in our city, and then to simply co-operate with Him!

John 5:19, NIV – “Jesus gave them this answer: “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.””

## 2. Lay Down Our Lives As A Foundation Stone For God’s House To Be Built On

Ephesians 2:19-22, NIV – “(20) built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ...”

- We must set aside every personal desire, every personal interest, every personal agenda, and die to those things, however good they may be, and instead, give our lives to ensure, that Jesus is laid as the foundation

2 Corinthians 12:14-15, NIV – “(14) Now I am ready to visit you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but you. After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. (15) So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well. ...”

- The task of apostolic ministries is to lay down our lives, so that in every city, an accurate, and unique corporate expression of Jesus is raised up
- Our task is to refuse to build ANYTHING that is more an expression of our heart, than God’s heart

Ephesians 3:4-5, NIV – “(4) In reading this, then, you will be able to understand 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.”

- There is a drive in every true apostolic person, and in every apostolic ministry, to understand, and bring forth a revelation of Christ in every community, and to give up every inch of their own agendas, that would hinder that revelation

## GOD IS CALLING

Mark 3:13-15, NIV – “(13) Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. (14) He appointed twelve – designating them apostles – that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach (15) and to have authority to drive out demons.”

Acts 4:13, NIV – “When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.”

# THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH

## Part 3 – The Task Defined

David Hibbert – June 22, 2003

### WHO’S THE BOSS?

1 Corinthians 1:10-12, NIV – “(10) I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. (11) My brothers, some from Chloe’s household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. (12) What I mean is this: One of you says, ‘I follow Paul’; another, ‘I follow Apollos’; another, ‘I follow Cephas’; still another, ‘I follow Christ.’”

- The Lord will not release the fullness of His authority and power and blessing, to a divided church!

### JESUS IS THE BOSS!

#### a) Our Place

1 Corinthians 1:26-28, NIV – “(26) Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. (27) But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, (28) so that no one may boast before him.”

1 Corinthians 3:4-7, NIV – “(4) For when one says, ‘I follow Paul,’ and another, ‘I follow Apollos,’ are you not mere men? (5) What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe – as the Lord has assigned to each his task. (6) I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. (7) So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.”

#### b) Jesus’ Place

1 Corinthians 3:21-23, NIV – “(21) So then, no more boasting about men! All things are yours, (22) whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future – all are yours. (23) and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.”

1 Corinthians 3:9, NIV – “For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.”

## THE APOSTOLIC TASK

### 1. Keeping Jesus As Boss!

- The Apostolic task is to keep the Jesus as the centre of each church
- 1 Corinthians 2:1-3, NIV – “(1) When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. (2) For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. (3) I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling.”

### 2. Avoiding The Temptation To Be Boss

- Luke 6:46, NIV – “Why do you call me, Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?”
- Matthew 7:21-23, NIV – “(21) Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (22) Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ (23) Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

### 3. Focusing On The Apostolic Call

- 1 Corinthians 2:2, NIV – “For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”
- To know, and live, and communicate, and stress (1) Jesus Christ, His life, (2) Jesus Christ, His death

## THE APOSTOLIC MINISTRY OF JESUS

### 1. Jesus’ Life – His Ministry Among Men, Before Calvary

- John 17:4, NIV – “I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.”
- John 5:19, NIV – “Jesus gave them this answer: ‘I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does, the Son also does.”
- John 8:28, NIV – “So Jesus said, ‘When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am, and that I do nothing on my own, but speak just what the Father has taught me.”
- John 10:37, NIV – “Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does.”
- John 12:49, NIV – “For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it.”

John 14:10, NIV – “Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.”

John 14:31, NIV – “But the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.”

### 2. Jesus’ Death – His Ministry For Men, At Calvary

- John 19:30, NIV – “When he had received the drink, Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’ With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”
- 1 Peter 2:7, NASB – “This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, ‘The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very corner stone.”
- 1 Corinthians 3:11, NIV – “For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.”
- Jesus gave His life to BECOME a foundation

## THE APOSTOLIC MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

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.”

### 1. Accurately Represent Jesus Christ On The Earth

- John 17:4, NIV – “Jesus answered: ... ‘Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. ...’”
- John 1:18, NIV – “No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.” (NASB – “explained Him”)
- Galatians 1:1, NIV – “Paul, an apostle – sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead.”
- We are called to represent Jesus Christ, and HIS interests, not our own
- To the degree that we allow God’s desires and interests to become our own, to that degree, we are apostolic.
- To the degree that we allow personal desires and interests to become mixed with our ministry, to that degree we cease to be apostolic.
- 1 Corinthians 2:2-3, NIV – “(2) For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. (3) I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling.”