

Five Main Ministries

by Derek Prince

— Study Note Outline —

MM1

Six Tape Series

- 5013 *The Maturing And Completion Of Christ's Body*
- 5014 *Apostles: God's Master Builders*
- 5015 *Prophets, Evangelists, Teachers*
- 5016 *Complete Local Leadership*
- 5017 *Local Church Leadership: God's View Vs. Man's View*
- 5018 *The "Reproductive Cycle": Apostles And Elders*

The Maturing And Completion Of Christ's Body

5013

I. Outline Ephesians 4:1–16

- A. v. 1–2—Basic character requirements
- B. v. 9–10—Pattern of Jesus (compare Phil. 2:5–11; Luke 14:11; Eph. 5:21)
- C. v. 3–6—Distinguish between “unity of the *Spirit*” and “unity of the *faith*” (compare v. 13). Seven basic unities:
 - 1. Body
 - 2. Spirit
 - 3. Hope
 - 4. Lord
 - 5. Faith
 - 6. Baptism
 - 7. Father
- D. v. 7–8, 11—Diversity through varied ministries (given by the ascended Christ). Each ministry is “according to the measure of Christ” within each minister.
 - 1. “Apostle” = one sent forth (compare John 13:16)
 - 2. “Prophet” = one who speaks forth
 - 3. “Evangelist” = one who tells good news
 - 4. “Pastor” = shepherd
 - 5. “Teacher” = one who interprets Scripture
- E. v. 12—Two main functions of these ministries
 - 1. To equip the believers for their work of service
 - 2. To build up the total body of Christ
- F. v. 13—Ultimate goals
 - 1. *Into* the “unity of the faith,” through the acknowledging of Christ (Is. 52:8) Restoration brings *harmony* and *single vision*.
 - 2. Maturity, individual and collective.
 - 3. The capacity completely to represent Christ in person and ministry.

- G. v. 14—The alternative
 1. Spiritual retardation
 2. Instability
 3. A prey to deceivers
- H. v. 15—Continuing growth into Christ through truth and love
- I. v. 16—The climax
 1. Completeness, unity, strength; every joint and part doing its job; thus the body builds itself up
 - a. “Joints” = interpersonal relationships (compare Col. 2:19)
 - b. “Bands” (or bonds) = overall attitudes (v. 2)
 - c. “Peace” (Col. 3:14) = love
 2. Ezek. 37:7–10—The regathering of Israel a pattern of the reuniting of the members of Christ’s body. First, noise and activity. Then “bone to his bone”: members joined together on the basis of *function*.
 3. Distinguish between “independence” and “liberty”
“Liberty” = the ability of each member perfectly to fulfill the will of the *head*.

Apostles: God’s Master Builders 5014

I. The Universal Church

- A. Review Ephesians 4:1–16
“Church” = assembly formed by *calling out* (compare Acts 19:32, 39, 41)
- B. Matt. 16:16–18—Entrance into the *universal church*

PETER		CHRIST
<i>Petros</i> = Stone		<i>Petra</i> = Rock (1 Cor. 10:4)
1. Confrontation		
2. Revelation		
3. Acknowledgement		
4. Confession (Matt. 10:32, 33)		
- C. John 10:1–11—Entrance into the *sheepfold* (= the company of “called out” ones on earth)

Matt. 16:16–18		John 10:1–11
The Father	=	The Lord of all
	THROUGH	
The Spirit	=	the Doorkeeper
	REVEALS	
The Son (crucified)	=	the Door
(risen)	=	the Shepherd

II. Universal Ministries (Eph. 4:11)

Four “*mobile*” ministries to the “*universal*” church: apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers

- A. Apostle
 1. Literally “one sent forth” (compare John 13:16)
 2. 14 mentioned before Pentecost, 14 mentioned after Pentecost
 3. Heb. 3:1—Jesus:

- a. Apostle
- b. High priest
- 4. John 10:36—"Sanctified" and "sent forth" by the Father (compare John 20:21)
- 5. Matt. 10:1-5—Before Pentecost: "disciples" become "apostles" when *sent forth* by Christ
- 6. Acts 13:1-4; 14:4, 14—After Pentecost: "prophets and teachers" become "apostles" when "sent forth" from a local church (compare 2 Cor. 8:23, Phil. 2:25)
Note: No evidence of "apostolic succession"
- 7. Acts 14:26-28—Apostles report back to churches which sent them forth
- 8. *Main task:* to set and maintain churches in order
 - a. 1 Cor. 3:10—The "apostle" = the "master builder"
 - b. 1 Cor. 9:2—*Seal:* building a complete local church
 - c. 2 Cor. 12:12—*Signs*
 - (1) Endurance
 - (2) Miracles
- 9. Apostles work together in "teams"
 - a. Acts 8:14-25—Peter and John
 - b. Acts 13:1-4—Barnabas and Paul
 - c. Acts 15:39—Barnabas and Mark
 - d. Acts 15:40; 16:1-4—Paul, Silas and Timothy (compare 1 Thess. 1:1; 2:6)
 - e. Gal. 2:1—Paul, Barnabas and Titus
 - f. Gal. 2:9—James, Peter and John (within an overall framework of *fellowship*)
- 10. 2 Cor. 11:5; 12:11—Various levels of apostleship
- 11. 2 Cor. 11:13-15—There are false apostles
- 12. Rev. 2:2—Claims of apostles must be tested

Prophets, Evangelists, Teachers 5015

II. Universal Ministries (cont'd.)

B. Prophet

- 1. Literally one who "speaks forth" a special message revealed to him by God (compare Amos 3:7; 1 Kings 17:1; Jer. 23:18, 23)
- 2. Distinguish
 - a. Ministry of a prophet
 - b. Gift of prophesying
 - (1) Eph. 4:11—*some* prophets
 - (2) 1 Cor. 14:31—*All* may prophesy
- 3. 1 Cor. 14:29—Prophets work together in *teams*, check each other's message and ministry. At least ten prophets are mentioned in Acts
 - a. Acts 11:27-30—Agabus and others
 - b. Acts 13:1—Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius, Manaen, Saul
 - c. Acts 15:32—Judas and Silas

- d. Acts 21:8–11—Philip’s four daughters “prophesied.” Agabus was a “prophet.” Here the messages of Agabus confirmed previous messages already given to Paul (compare Acts 20:22–23)
- 4. Zech. 4:1 - 6, 11–14—Old Testament picture
 - a. Candlestick = church
 - b. Olive Trees = prophets
 - c. Oil = fresh inspiration (compare Rev. 11:4,10; Prov. 29:18)
- 5. Rev. 22:18–19—Whole book of Revelation is a *prophecy*
- C. Evangelist
 - 1. Literally one who tells the “good news”
 - a. Noun “evangelist” used three times: Acts 21:8; Eph. 4:11; 2 Tim. 4:5
 - b. Verb “evangelize” used about 50 times: e.g. Luke 4:18, 43; 9:6; Acts 8:25; 14:7; 16:10
 - c. The evangelist *introduces* the *sinner* to the *Savior*
 - 2. Acts 21:8—Pattern evangelist: Philip (see Acts 8:4–40)
 - a. *Message*: Acts 8:5—“Christ”; Acts 8:35 – “Jesus”
 - b. *Attestation*: Acts 8:6–7—Miracles
 - c. *Result*: Acts 8:12, 36–38—Salvation + Baptism
 - 3. Acts 8:26, 29, 39—Philip was God’s “paratrooper”
- D. Teacher
 - 1. One who interprets Scripture
 - 2. Two levels of teaching
 - a. Eph. 4:11—A public *expositor* to the whole body in all places
 - b. 1 Tim. 5:17—A teaching *elder* to the members of the local church
 - c. Tit. 1:9—The elder teaches what he has first been taught (compare 2 Tim. 2:2)
 - 3. Example of a universal expositor: Apollos
 - a. Acts 18:24–28; 1 Cor. 3:5–6—Apollos “watered” what Paul had “planted”
 - b. They had come to Christ through *supernatural grace*. Thereafter, their faith needed to be established through *understanding of the Scriptures*.
 - 4. Acts 18:28—Systematic public exposition of Scripture
 - 5. An evangelistic ministry often comes forth rapidly after conversion, but a teaching ministry takes longer to develop.
 - 6. Often “teacher” is linked with one of the other “mobile” ministries:
 - a. 2 Tim 1:11—An *apostle* and a *teacher*
 - b. Acts 13:1—*Prophets* and *teachers*
 - c. Luke 20:1—Jesus was *teaching* and *evangelizing*
 - 7. Apostles, prophets, shepherds always *plural* (concerned with order of local church).
 - 8. Evangelists and teachers may operate as *individuals*

Complete Local Leadership 5016

I. The Local Church

- A. Definition: the local Church is that part of the universal church *resident in any locality*.
- B. Only two requirements for membership

1. Relationship with Christ
2. Residence in a locality
- C. The local church develops progressively like a biological cell. Four main phases:
 1. Matt. 18:15–20—Basic “cell”: two or three led together . . .
 2. Acts 14:22–23—Elders appointed: “disciples” become “churches”
 3. Phil. 1:1—Leadership completed:
 - a. Bishops
 - b. Deacons
 - c. Saints (compare Acts 6:1–6)
 4. 1 Cor. 12:28—Ministries completed
- D. The local church is the *final court of appeal* for:
 1. Disputes between believers (Matt. 18:17)
 2. Doctrine (Acts 15:22–29)
 3. Moral conduct (1 Cor 5:1–5; 6:1–2)
- E. *Only one local church* in any given area: *no overlapping*. See Acts 13:1; 18:21–22; 20:17, etc.

II. Local Leaders

- A. Spiritual
 1. Acts 10:17, 28—To give spiritual leadership: *shepherds* (pastors) = *elders*
 2. 1 Peter 5:1 - 2 = *Overseers* (bishops)
Always *plural*: See Acts 14:23, Tit. 1:5, James 5:14. (compare also: Phil 1:1, 1 Thess. 5:12, Heb. 13:7, 17, 24)
- B. Material
 1. Phil. 1:1; Acts 6:6—To serve material needs: *deacons*. *Chosen* from congregation, approved by apostles
 2. 1 Tim. 5:17—Two main tasks of *elders*
 - a. To rule (*oversee*)
 - b. To teach
- C. Complete local leadership
 1. To *rule* and *teach*
 - a. *Task*: Overseers (bishops)
 - b. *Qualification*: Elders
 - c. *Ministry*: Shepherds (pastors)
 2. To serve: Deacons
- D. Personal requirements
 1. For *elders*: 1 Tim. 3:1–7, Tit. 1:5–9
 2. For *deacons*: Acts 6:3, 1 Tim. 3:8–13
- E. The shepherd ministry: See John 10:1–28; Ps. 23; Ezek. 34:1–6
 1. A life laid down
 2. To know and be known
 3. To speak and lead
 4. To feed
 5. To protect
- F. Matt. 9:36—Sheep without a shepherd are *scattered* (compare Matt. 26:31, Ezek. 34:5–6).
Either *be* a shepherd or *have* a shepherd.
- G. *Two alternatives* for the local church

1. *Many* local churches each with *one* leader
2. *One* local church with *many* leaders

**Local Church Leadership:
God's View Vs. Man's View
5017**

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A. Spiritual

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2. 1 Pet. 5:1–2 = *Overseers* (bishops)
Always *plural*: see Acts 14:23; Tit. 1:5; James 5:14 (compare also: Phil. 1:1; 1 Thess. 5:12; Heb. 13:7, 17, 24)

B. Material

1. Phil. 1:1; Acts 6:6—To serve material needs: *deacons*. Chosen from congregation, approved by apostles
2. 1 Tim. 5:17—Two main tasks of *elders*
 - a. To rule (*oversee*)
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C. Personal requirements

1. For *elders*: 1 Tim. 3:1–7, Tit. 1:5–9
2. For *deacons*: Acts 6:3, 1 Tim. 3:8–13

D. The shepherd ministry: See John 10:1–28; Ps. 23; Ezek. 34:1–6

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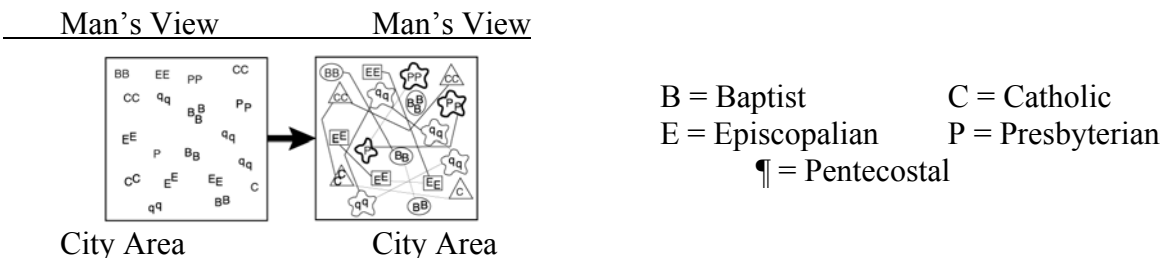
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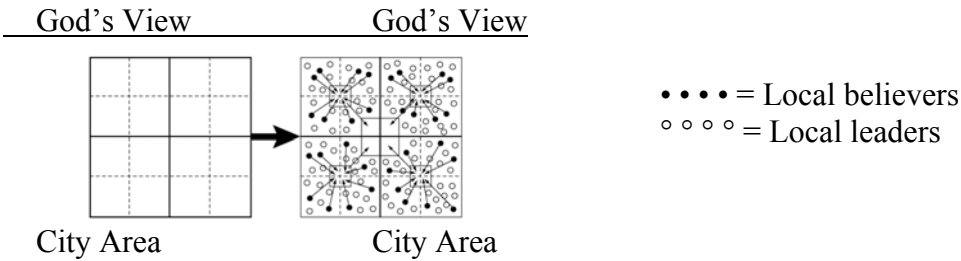
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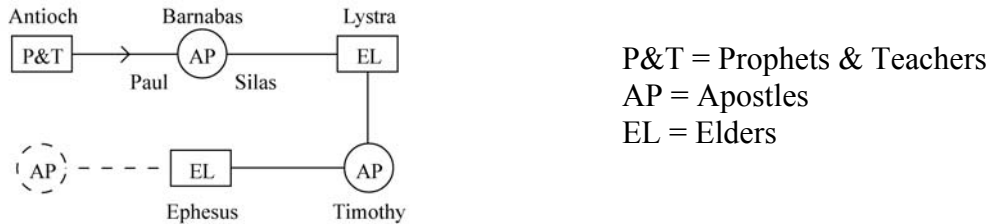
II. Two Opposite Views Of Local Church And Leadership





**The "Reproductive Cycle":
Apostles And Elders
5018**

I. The "Reproductive Cycle"



- A. Acts 13:1—"Prophets and teachers" in fellowship
- B. Acts 13:2-4, 14:4, 14—Barnabas and Paul sent forth as "apostles" from the church at Antioch (compare Gal. 1:1; 1 Tim. 1:1)
- C. Acts 15:40—Paul and Silas sent forth again from Antioch
- D. Acts 16:1-3—Timothy sent forth with them from Lystra
- E. 1 Thess. 1:1; 2:6—Paul, Silas and Timothy were all "apostles"
- F. 1 Tim. 1:18, 4:14—Timothy had been sent forth through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the local elders at Lystra
- G. 1 Tim. 3:1-5, 5:17-22—Timothy in turn is instructed by Paul how to appoint elders at Ephesus
- H. 2 Tim. 2:2—Four "spiritual generations":
 - 1. Paul
 - 2. Timothy
 - 3. Elders taught by Timothy
 - 4. Elders taught by elders taught by Timothy

II. Within A Local Church

Ministries	Leaders	
Apostles	Co- Elders	
Prophets	Elders	
Teachers	Deacons	
Miracles	Healings	Helps

Steerings

Kinds of Tongues

A. 1 Pet. 5:1–2—A resident “apostle” serves as a “co-elder”

B. 1 Cor. 12:28—Descending order of authority:

1. Apostles
2. Prophets
3. Teachers
4. Miracles
5. Healings
6. Helps
7. Steerings
8. Kinds of tongues

Note: “evangelists,” as such, have no ministry within the assembly of believers

C. Note also the following groupings in the church at Jerusalem

1. Acts 15:4, 6—Apostles and elders
2. Acts 15:22—Apostles and elders with the whole church
3. Acts 25:23—Apostles and elders and brethren