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

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 = Stone
      CHRIS = Stone
      PETRA = 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)
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)
   \textit{Note:} No evidence of “apostolic succession”
7. Acts 14:26–28—Apostles report back to churches which sent them forth
8. \textit{Main task:} to set and maintain churches in order
   a. 1 Cor. 3:10—The “apostle” = the “master builder”
   b. 1 Cor. 9:2—
   c. 2 Cor. 12:12—
      (1) Endurance
      (2) Miracles
9. Apostles work together in “teams”
   a. Acts 8:14–25—Peter and John
   c. Acts 15:39—Barnabas and Mark
   e. Gal. 2:1—Paul, Barnabas and Titus
   f. Gal. 2:9—James, Peter and John (within an overall framework of \textit{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

\textbf{Prophets, Evangelists, Teachers}

\textit{5015}

\textbf{II. Universal Ministries (cont’d.)}

\textbf{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—\textit{some} prophets
      (2) 1 Cor. 14:31—\textit{All} may prophesy

3. 1 Cor. 14:29—Prophets work together in \textit{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)
   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
      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
   b. They had come to Christ through supernatural grace. Thereafter, their faith
      needed to be established through understanding of the Scriptures.
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 . . .
   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)
   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)

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

I. Local Leaders

A. Spiritual
   1. Acts 20:17, 28—To give spiritual leadership: *shepherds* (pastors) = *elders*
   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*)
      b. To teach

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
   1. A life laid down
   2. To know and be known
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E. 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*.

F. The local church is the *final court of appeal* for:
   1. Disputes between believers (Matt. 18:17)
   3. Moral conduct (1 Cor. 5:1–5; 6:1–2)

G. *Only one local church* in any given area: *no overlapping*. See Acts 13:1; 18:21–22; 20:17, etc.

II. Two Opposite Views Of Local Church And Leadership

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* B = Baptist  
* C = Catholic  
* E = Episcopalian  
* P = Presbyterian  
* † = Pentecostal
The “Reproductive Cycle”: Apostles And Elders

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

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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

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