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Biblical Church Development Outline

by
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Biblical Church Development

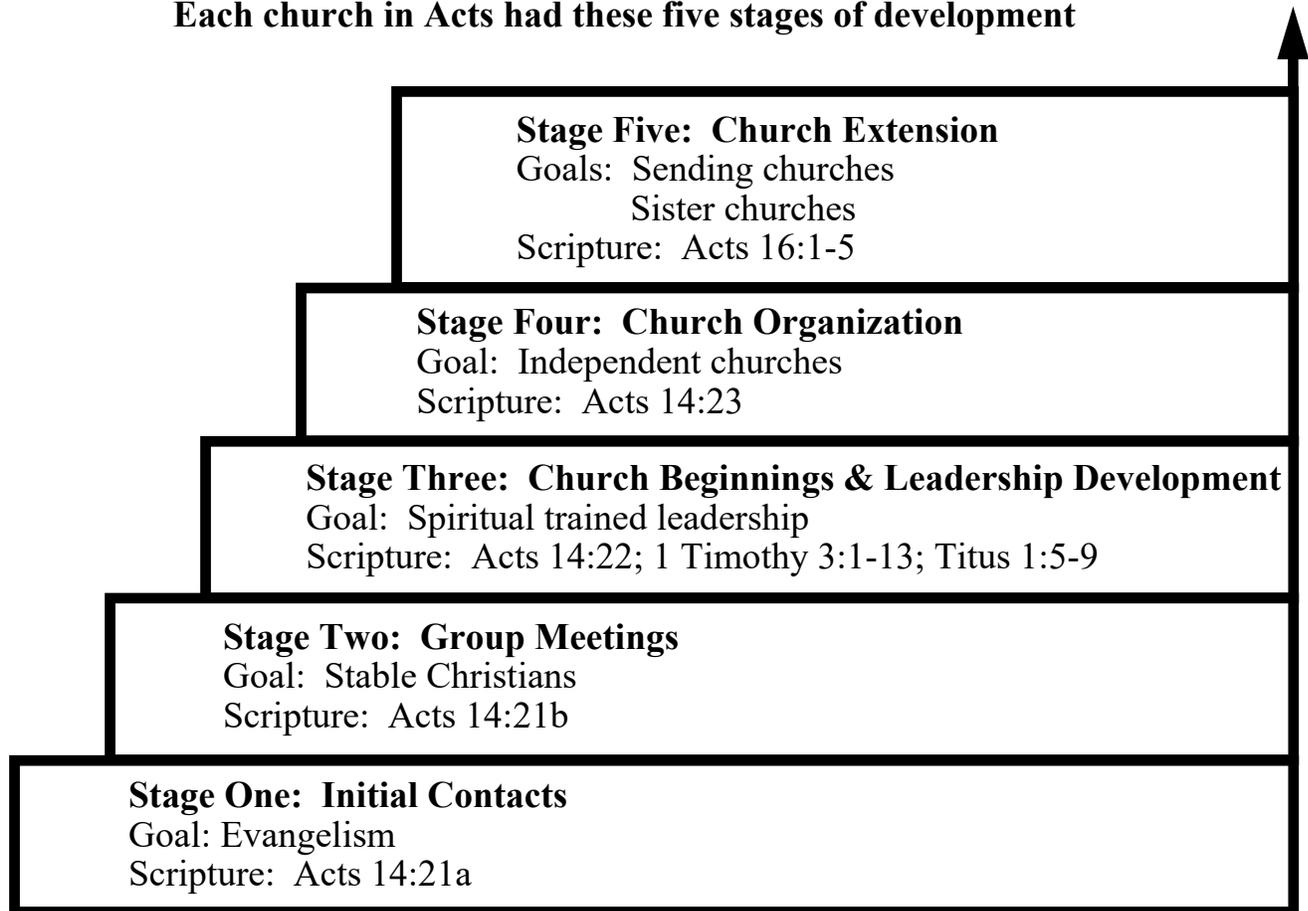
Introduction

God wanted us to have a clear understanding of how churches develop. For that reason, He led Luke to write the book of Acts so that we have a clear picture of the development of the early churches. In the book of Acts, the Holy Spirit teaches us the five stages of Biblical Church Development that happen as a church develops. If a church skips one or more of these stages in its development, it will not develop properly. If it begins to neglect one or more of these stages, it will begin to die. It is also essential that we understand the Great Commission in order for a church to develop properly.

This outline is divided into six sections. The first section will give a summary of the Biblical foundation for Biblical Church Development. The remaining five sections will cover the five stages of that development. In this section, we will look at the Scriptures to get an overview of the five stages, learn the reasons why each stage must continue as a foundation for the following stages and develop a Biblical understanding of our Great Commission. A summary chart of the five stages of Biblical Church Development is given on the next page.

Biblical Church Development

Each church in Acts had these five stages of development



As each new stage develops, the previous stages must continue for a church to remain healthy!

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
Jerusalem	Acts 2:1-41	2:42-47	3:1-5:42	6:1-8	8:4, 14, 11:22
Antioch	Acts 11:19-21	11:22-25	11:26	13:1	13:2-4
Galatia	Acts 14:21a	14:21b	14:22	14:23	16:1-5
Corinth	Acts 18:1-6	18:7-8	18:9-11	18:12-18a	18:18b-19
Ephesus	Acts 18:24-19:7	19:8-9	19:10	19:11-21	19:22, 20:4

Section One

Biblical Foundation

I How do churches develop?

- A. Initial contacts - Acts 14:21a
Goal - evangelism

A key point to remember is that a church is a body of Christians and not just a name on a building.

must reach people through evangelism
must train people for evangelism

- B. Group meetings - Acts 14:21b, Acts 2:42
Goal - stable Christians

This is the stage where we begin to develop a nucleus that will lead to the development of a new church when involved in church planting.

The small group Bible study and fellowship provides:
opportunity to ask questions
develop new friendships
opportunity for worship
opportunity to pray for one another

The small group is the place where new Christians can get their questions answered which is essential for healthy growth.

- C. Church beginnings and leadership development - Acts 14:22;
1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9
Goal - spiritual trained leadership

The key to the development of spiritual leadership is the development of godly character. A leader without godly character will destroy the testimony of a church.

- D. Church organization - Acts 14:23; Ephesians 4:11-13; 2 Timothy 2:2
Goal - independent (indigenous) churches

Balanced church development results from an effective team ministry.
evangelists - equip the saints for evangelism
pastors - equip the saints to minister to one another
teachers - equip the saints to teach the Word of God

- E. Church extension - Acts 16:1-5
goals - sending churches - Acts 16:1-3
sister churches - Acts 16:5

Extension is the planting of new, sound Biblical churches in each identifiable group that cannot be easily reached through the existing Biblical churches because of size of population, distance in miles or differences in ethnic, cultural or language background.

size of population - Jerusalem
distance - Judaea
ethnic or cultural differences - Samaria
language - uttermost part of the earth

II Why do churches die?

- A. skipped stages

1. failure to make contacts for the purpose of evangelism - Acts 17:17
2. failure of follow-up with new Christians - Acts 18:26
3. failure to mature Christians so that godly leaders develop - 3 John 9
4. failure to develop a balanced ministry - Ephesians 4:11-13
5. failure to develop vision for other areas - Mark 1:38

- B. discontinued stages

1. no continued training for evangelism - Acts 20:20
2. no continued small group ministry - Acts 2:42
3. no development of additional godly leaders - 2 Timothy 2:2
4. focus on buildings instead of building the body - Ephesians 4:12-16
5. focus on own church instead of the world - Psalm 67:1-7

C. the Biblical remedy for dying churches - Revelation 2:4-5

the problem - many churches have left their first love - Revelation 2:4
John 14:15 - If you love Me, keep My commandments.

the Biblical remedy - Revelation 2:5

the three R's to become effective again

Remember - Acts 19:10, 17-20

Repent - 1 Thessalonians 1:9

Repeat or do the first works - 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

III Commissioned to do what?

Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

A. one command: **Make Disciples**

B. three participles to fulfill that command

1. going - Mark 16:15; Luke 24:48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8

2. baptizing - Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1-6

3. teaching - Acts 20:27; Galatians 5:13-14

Section Two Evangelism

I What is the Gospel we share?

A. the Gospel that Paul said is of first importance - 1 Corinthians 15:1-2

1. the Gospel that Paul preached

2. the Gospel that the Corinthians received

3. the Gospel that makes us stand

4. the Gospel by which we are saved

- B. the Gospel summarized - 1 Corinthians 15:3-8
 - 1. Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures
 - 2. Christ was buried
 - 3. Christ was raised again according to the Scriptures
 - 4. Christ was seen by more than 500 witnesses

- C. the hindrances to the spread of the Gospel today
 - 1. most Christians feel that they are not qualified to share the Gospel - 2 Corinthians 3:5-6; 2 Timothy 2:21
 - 2. most Christians have not been shown how to share the Gospel - Matthew 4:19; Acts 20:20

II Have we learned to work with the Holy Spirit?

- A. Understanding how the Holy Spirit works - 1 Corinthians 14:23-24
 - 1. the Holy Spirit works through people - 1 Peter 3:15
 - 2. the Holy Spirit works through the Word of God - Isaiah 55:9-11
 - 3. the Holy Spirit convicts - John 16:8-11
 - 4. the Holy Spirit reveals the secrets of the heart - Jeremiah 17:9-10

- B. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin - John 16:8-9
 - 1. the world is at enmity with God - Romans 8:7
 - 2. the world must be drawn to the Father - John 6:44
 - 3. the world must be convicted of the sin of unbelief - John 3:18

- C. The Holy Spirit convicts of righteousness - John 16:10
 - 1. the world does not know that Christ is the Righteous One - Matthew 3:15
 - 2. the world is convinced by the Holy Spirit that Christ is the Righteous One - John 16:10
 - 3. the world cannot resist the wisdom of the Spirit - Acts 6:10, 8:35 (as we share the Word of God, the Spirit convinces people through the Word that Christ is the Righteous One)

D. The Holy Spirit convicts of judgment - John 16:11

1. the prince of this world was promised judgment - Genesis 3:15
2. the prince of this world will experience eternal judgment - Revelation 20:10
3. the prince of this world and the power of death were defeated by the death and resurrection of Christ - Hebrews 2:14-15
4. the prince of this world will share his judgment with all who do not respond to the convicting ministry of the Spirit - Revelation 20:11-15

III Who is qualified to share the Gospel?

A. the sharing of the Gospel by the early church - Acts 8:1, 4, 11:19-21

1. the Gospel was spread by the newer Christians and not just the leaders - Acts 8:1, 4
2. the Gospel was shared with people of other cultures
 - a. the Samaritans and Ethiopians - Acts 8
 - b. the Gentiles - Acts 10 and 11
3. the Gospel was shared from the Word of God - Acts 8:4

B. the sharing of the Gospel and five priorities of spiritual leadership - Exodus 18:19-21

1. a spiritual leader is to pray for the people - Ephesians 3:14-21
2. a spiritual leader is to teach the Word of God - Acts 8:4
3. a spiritual leader is to show people the way to walk - 1 Peter 3:1-6, 15
4. a spiritual leader is to show people the work to do - Acts 20:20-21
5. a spiritual leader is to share the work - Acts 6:3; Ephesians 4:16

C. the sharing of the Gospel and the priesthood of all believers - 1 Peter 2:5, 9

(the Old Testament priest did several things and all Christians are to do the same things)

1. a priest offers sacrifices (prayer) - 1 Peter 2:5; 1 John 5:14-15; 2 Peter 3:9
2. a priest speaks for God to men (witness) - 1 Peter 2:9-10

- D. the sharing of the Gospel and bringing forth fruit that remains - John 15:16
1. Christ chose us to bring forth fruit - 1 Corinthians 1:27-29
“You did not choose me, but I chose you”
 2. Christ appointed us to do His work - 2 Corinthians 5:19-20
“and appointed you”
 3. Christ wants us to show our love by obedience - John 14:15, 15:14
“that you should go”
 4. Christ wants us to have patience - Mark 4:26-29; Psalm 126:5-6
“and bring forth”
 5. Christ desires productivity - Galatians 6:7-9
“and bring forth fruit”
 6. Christ wants us to do effective follow-up Matthew 28:19-20
“bring forth fruit that remains”
 7. Christ promises to hear us - 1 John 5:14-15
“that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you”

Section Three

Group Meetings (Follow-up)

I What about meetings?

- A. the purposes of Bible study and fellowship meetings - Acts 2:42
(small group meetings)
1. Bible study with one another - Mark 3:14; Acts 20:4;
2 Timothy 3:16-17
 2. Fellowship with one another - 1 John 1:3
 3. Breaking of bread (used to speak both of sharing meals together and
also remembering the Lord's death) - John 13-15; Acts 2:46
 4. Pray for one another - Acts 12:12
 5. Meet the needs of specific groups - 1 Peter 2:2
 6. Equip Christians for ministry - Ephesians 4:11-12

Bible Study	Fellowship	Breaking of Bread	Prayer	Meet Needs	Equip
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- B. the purposes of meetings of the whole church - Acts 2:46
1. Prayer - Acts 3:1, 4:23-24; 1 Timothy 2:8; Ephesians 6:18
 2. Worship - 1 Corinthians 14:23-25; John 4:23-24
 3. Public reading of Scripture - 1 Timothy 4:13
 4. Encouragement - Hebrew 10:25
 5. Instruction - Acts 4:1-2
 6. Develop our spiritual gifts and leadership - 1 Corinthians 14:26
 7. Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:18ff
- C. the purposes of one-to-one meetings - Acts 2:46, 20:20
1. Learning through example - Acts 20:20
 2. Teach specific principles from Scripture - Acts 20:20
 3. Correct problems between Christians - Matthew 18:15
 4. Help Christians deceived by false teaching - James 5:19-20
 5. Bear burdens - Galatians 6:2
 6. Provide comfort - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
 7. To make ourselves accountable to one another - James 5:16
 8. Clarify things for younger Christians - Acts 18:26
 9. Provide on-the-job training - Mark 1:17

II What does follow-up mean?

- A. the need for spiritual parents
1. many new Christians have instructors instead of spiritual parents - 1 Corinthians 4:15-16
 2. our goal is to bring all Christians to the point of being spiritual parents - 1 John 2:12-14; Hebrews 5:12-13
 3. the concerns of spiritual parents - 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12
- B. follow-up is spending time with new Christians for at least six purposes:
- F**ellowship
Leadership development
Outreach
Caring
Knowledge
Service

- C. the importance of fellowship in follow-up
(loving one another is learned as we share our lives together)
1. loving one another is command by Christ - John 13:34-35
 2. loving one another is practiced in many ways
 - a. 31 one anothers we are commanded to do in the New Testament
 - b. 12 one anothers we are commanded to avoid in the New Testament
 3. loving one another was practiced by the early church - Acts 2:42, 46
- D. the importance of leadership development in follow-up
(character development is a key part of leadership development so it should begin day one of a new Christian's life)
1. qualifications for spiritual leadership - Exodus 18:21; Acts 6:3; 1 Timothy 3:1-12; Titus 1:5-9
 2. developing godly character
 - a. requires a basic understanding of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us from the moment of salvation - 2 Timothy 1:7
 - b. develops as our minds are being transformed - Romans 12:2
 - c. develops as our emotions are becoming controlled by the love of Christ for us - 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
 - d. develops as we allow the will of Christ to become the model for our will - Luke 22:42
 - e. develops as we learn to serve with a servant's heart - Matthew 20:25-28
- E. the importance of outreach in follow-up
(reaching extended family and friends)
1. teach them to use their own home for outreach - Luke 5:27-29
 2. have a follow-up Bible study in their home and encourage them to invite family and friends - Acts 10:24
 3. take them with you and show them how to share the Gospel
 - a. illustrated by Christ - Matthew 4:19
 - b. illustrated by Paul - Acts 20:20-21

- F. the importance of caring in follow-up
(need a group of people who really care)
 - 1. every person needs caring when he suffers - 1 Corinthians 12:25-26
 - 2. every person needs care shown when he is honored - Romans 12:15

- G. the importance of Bible knowledge in follow-up - 2 Peter 3:18
(people become familiar with the Bible in five ways)
 - 1. people become with the Word of God by hearing - Romans 10:17
 - 2. people become familiar with the Word by reading - Revelation 1:3
 - 3. people become familiar with the Word by studying -
2 Timothy 2:15
 - 4. people become familiar with the Word by memorizing it -
Psalm 119:11
 - 5. people become familiar with the Word by meditating on it -
Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3

- H. the importance of service in follow-up
 - 1. learning to serve as a slave who has been purchased by His Master -
Galatians 5:13
 - 2. learning to serve one another by using our spiritual gifts -
1 Peter 4:10-11
 - a. teach about spiritual gifts - Romans 12:3-8;
1 Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 4:11-13
 - b. show by our example how to submit to the Holy Spirit so that
He is able to work through our lives - 2 Corinthians 3:5-6

III What is a disciple?

(there are five characteristics of a disciple found in Matthew 13:52)

- A. a disciple is a person who knows the Word of God
 - 1. there is evidence of salvation - 2 Corinthians 13:5
 - 2. there is time to grow and mature so that the Word abides in us -
1 John 2:12-14
 - a. our thoughts are being transformed - Isaiah 55:8-9
 - b. our attitudes are being transformed - Acts 16:25
 - c. our actions are being transformed - Acts 16:25

- B. a disciple is the head of a spiritual household
 - 1. Paul developed a spiritual household - Acts 16:1-3, 20:4
 - 2. Aquila developed a spiritual household - Acts 18:26b-28

- C. a disciple has a treasure
 - 1. our treasure is what controls our heart - Matthew 12:35
 - 2. our treasure can keep us from sin - Psalm 119:11
 - 3. our treasure determines our character - Matthew 12:35; 2 Corinthians 4:7

- D. a disciple is a learner who shares what he learns
 - 1. a learner's attitude causes us to continually learn - Colossians 2:3
 - 2. a learner's attitude causes us to share what we learn - 2 Timothy 2:2

- E. a disciple shares basic truths
 - 1. a disciple teaches people to share publicly - Acts 20:21
 - 2. a disciple teaches people to share from house to house - Acts 20:21; 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

Section Four

Maturing (Leadership Development)

I Strengthening the souls of the disciples

- A. changes which happen through the strengthening of the soul
 - 1. the mind will be transformed for effective spiritual leadership - Romans 12:2
 - 2. the emotions will be transformed for effective spiritual leadership - 1 John 4:18; John 13:34-35, 14:15; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
 - 3. the will will be transformed for effective spiritual leadership - Luke 22:42; Acts 13:2-3

B. Persons or things God uses to strengthen us

1. Christ and the Father strengthen us - 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17, 3:3; Philippians 4:13
2. God uses the ministry of other Christians to establish and strengthen us - 1 Thessalonians 3:2
3. God uses the preaching and teaching of the Word to strengthen and confirm us - Acts 15:32; 2 Peter 1:12
4. God uses our prayers and the prayers of others to strengthen us - Romans 16:25
5. God uses the spiritual gifts of other Christians to strengthen and establish us - Romans 1:11-12
6. God uses suffering to strengthen us - 1 Peter 5:10
7. God uses the lessons learned from our failures to strengthen us - Luke 22:31-34

C. Results of a strengthening ministry

1. godly leadership will be controlled by the desire to serve others - Mark 10:42-45
2. godly leadership will put that desire into action by becoming a servant of all - Mark 10:42-45
3. godly leadership will be motivated by the desire to serve rather than be served - Mark 10:42-45
4. godly leadership will follow the example of Christ who gave His life for others instead of expecting to receive - Mark 10:42-45
5. godly leadership will have new attitudes
 - a. godly leaders have an attitude of compassion toward the world - Matthew 9:36-38
 - b. godly leaders have an attitude of love toward other Christians - John 13:34-35

Self-Motivated Leadership

Christ said, “For without Me you can do nothing.”
John 15:5

Godly Leadership

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
Philippians 4:13

II Abiding in the Faith

A. abiding in the faith and the Word of God

1. spiritual leaders must be committed to the truth -
John 17:17, 8:31-32
2. spiritual leaders must be committed to knowing God and becoming
spiritual parents - 1 John 2:13-14; Acts 6:7, 9:31; 2 Timothy 2:15;
Isaiah 55:8-9

B. abiding in the faith and walking in the Spirit

1. the Lord has set us free - Galatians 5:1
2. the Lord calls us to use our liberty to serve one another -
Galatians 5:13; 2 Timothy 2:21
3. the Lord calls us to walk in the Spirit - Galatians 5:16
4. the Lord calls us to be led by the Spirit - Galatians 5:18
5. the Lord promises He will produce the fruit of the Spirit in our lives
Galatians 5:22-23

C. abiding in the faith and abiding in Christ

1. we will bear fruit as we abide in Christ - John 15:2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 16
2. we will have answered prayer as we abide in Christ - John 15:7, 16
3. we will bring glory to the Father as we abide in Christ and bring
forth fruit - John 15:8; 1 Corinthians 10:31
4. we will abide in Christ's love if we keep His commandments -
John 15:10
5. we will be filled with joy as we abide in Christ - John 15:11
6. we will be able to fulfill the commandment to love one another as
Christ loved us as we abide in Christ - John 15:12, 17
7. we will be Christ's friends as we abide in Him - John 15:13-14
8. we will know God's plans as we abide in Christ - John 15:15
9. we have been chosen and appointed by Christ to bring forth fruit
that remains as we abide in Christ - John 15:16

As Christians we are learning:

the Word of God	to walk in the Spirit	to abide in Christ
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III Preparing for much affliction

A. Scriptural causes of affliction

1. our own life experiences
 - a. physical suffering - John 16:21
 - b. marriage adjustments and problems - 1 Corinthians 7:28
 - c. poverty - 2 Corinthians 8:2
 - d. death of a family member - James 1:27
2. persecution - John 16:33; Acts 11:19, 20:23-24; 2 Corinthians 1:8-10; 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7
3. concern for others - Matthew 9:36, 2 Corinthians 2:4, 4:16-18; Ephesians 3:14-21, 4:13-14

B. Scriptural responses to affliction

1. realize that affliction will come - 2 Corinthians 4
 - a. affliction is the result of spiritual conflict - 2 Corinthians 4:4
 - b. affliction comes because we have chosen to make ourselves servants - 2 Corinthians 4:6
 - c. affliction causes us to have a different viewpoint - 2 Corinthians 4:8-9
 - d. affliction causes us to become more concerned about the development of the inner man - 2 Corinthians 4:16
 - e. affliction causes us to focus on things that will last for eternity rather than things that will only last a few days or years - 2 Corinthians 4:18
2. realize that we can count it all joy - James 1:2-3
3. realize the long term results of affliction in our lives
 - a. tribulation cannot separate us from the love of Christ - Romans 8:35-39
 - b. tribulation produces patience - Romans 5:3-5
 - c. tribulation gives us a totally different viewpoint on life as we focus our attention on what God is doing through our affliction - 2 Corinthians 8:2
 - d. tribulation prepares us for future ministry - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Section Five

Church Organization

I Development of a team ministry

- A. select the people to be on the initial team - Mark 3:13-14
1. Christ chose men who had a learner's attitude - John 1:37-39
 2. Christ chose men who were responders - John 1:37-39, 43; Matthew 4:18-22, 9:9
 3. Christ chose men who were workers - (in the book of Mark, all were chosen while they were working) - Mark 1:16-20, 2:13-14
 4. Christ chose men who had a servant's heart - Mark 10:42-45
 5. Christ took time and prayed before selecting the team - Luke 6:12
- B. remember that the goal is to bring people to maturity in Christ
1. spiritual maturity is the goal in building a team - Colossians 1:28-29
 2. spiritual maturity involves becoming strong in spirit - Ephesians 3:16
 3. spiritual maturity involves developing love and compassion for the people around us - 2 Corinthians 5:14; Matthew 9:36
 4. spiritual maturity involves submitting our will to the will of Christ - Matthew 26:39b
 5. spiritual maturity involves learning to exercise our spiritual gifts so that we carry out the work of God according to the will of God - 1 Peter 4:7-11
- C. disciple by association
(Christ chose the twelve to be with Him - Mark 3:13-14)
1. Christ went with the disciples where they were - Luke 5:27-29
 2. Christ had the disciples with Him where He was - Mark 3:13-14

Two Important Questions:

Do we go to people where they live, work and spend time?	Do we have people with us where we are?
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- D. build an interdependent relationship
 - 1. Christ wanted the disciples to know that He would be with them through the Holy Spirit - Luke 24:49; John 14:18
 - 2. Christ wanted the disciples to know that they had each other - Ephesians 4:25b; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

- E. build the team to the fellowship
 - 1. Paul realized the importance of strengthening the relationship between various members of his team - 2 Timothy 4:21
 - 2. Paul realized the importance of strengthening the relationships between the leadership team and the rest of the church - Philemon 23-24

II Development of leaders from within

- A. understanding the equipping gifts - Ephesians 4:11-12
 - 1. foundation gifts - Ephesians 2:19-20
 - a. apostles - Acts 1:21-22; 1 Corinthians 15:12-19
most important ministry was to be eyewitnesses of the resurrection
 - b. prophets - 2 Peter 1:19-21
most important ministry was to give us the written Word of God

 - 2. equipping gifts
 - a. evangelists - Acts 8:4, 19:10
most important ministry is to equip all Christians to share the Gospel with those who are not yet Christians
 - b. pastors - Ezekiel 34:11-16
most important ministry is to equip all Christians to minister to one another and build strong relationships
 - c. teachers - Amos 8:11-12
most important ministry is to equip all Christians to teach the Word of God

B. understanding the purpose of the equipping gifts - Ephesians 4:12

Equipping Gift	Equip the Saints to:
Evangelists Pastors Teachers	Preach the Gospel Minister to one another Teach the Word of God

1. to mature the saints
 - a. become Christ centered instead of self centered - Galatians 2:20
 - b. minister from a heart controlled by love instead of fear - 1 John 4:18
2. to equip each Christian for the work of ministry (service) - Ephesians 2:10; John 15:16
3. to build up the body of Christ
 - a. build up in size as people become Christians - evangelism
 - b. build up in relationships as Christians learn to show love to one another - caring
 - c. build up in spiritual maturity as Christians grow in the Word of God and learn to share it with others - teaching

C. results of an effective equipping ministry

1. Christians are brought to spiritual maturity (Ephesians 4:13-14) and do not remain as toddlers - 1 Corinthians 3:1-3, 13:11; Hebrews 5:11-14
2. Christians are equipped to serve the Lord - Ephesians 4:13
3. Christians are learning how to speak the truth in love - Ephesians 4:15
4. Christians each become an effective, functioning part of the body - Ephesians 4:16
 - a. they learn to work together
 - b. they recognize their ministries contribute to the entire body
 - c. they are able to work effectively
 - d. every Christian will be able to do the work of the Lord
 - e. the body will build itself up in love

III Development of a Christ-dependent team

A. maturity in the leadership team

1. develop leaders who meet spiritual qualifications -
1 Timothy 3:1-12; Titus 1:5-9
2. develop leaders whose lives are an example for others -
1 Peter 5:2-3
3. develop leaders who are able to protect the church from false teachers - Acts 20:29-31; Titus 1:9
4. develop leaders who are continuing to grow in their spiritual maturity - Acts 20:32

B. continuing prayer for the churches

1. the prayer for the church at Thessalonica - 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3
 - a. Paul prayed for their faith
 - b. Paul prayed for their love
 - c. Paul prayed for their hope
2. the prayer for the church at Colosse - Colossians 1:9-11
 - a. Paul prayed they would know the will of God
 - b. Paul prayed they would have a walk worthy of the Lord
 - c. Paul prayed that they would be fruitful
 - d. Paul prayed that they would increase in the knowledge of God
 - e. Paul prayed that they would be strengthened with power
3. the prayer for the church at Ephesus - Ephesians 3:14-21
 - a. Paul prayed that the human spirit of each Christian would be strengthened with the power of God by the Holy Spirit
 - b. Paul prayed that each Christian would know the presence of Christ
 - c. Paul prayed that each Christian would know the love that Christ has for us
 - d. Paul prayed that each Christian would be filled with all the fulness of God

- C. entrusting the churches to the Lord
 - 1. Paul had faith that the Lord would continue to work in their lives - Matthew 16:18
 - 2. Paul expected the Lord to work through the elders as they taught the people the Word of God - Philippians 1:6
 - 3. Paul expected the Lord to work through the interdependence that had developed between the Christians - 1 Corinthians 12:1-31

Section Six

Church Extension

I Building an outreach team

- A. help each Christian grow to spiritual maturity
 - 1. the spiritual new born babe - 1 Peter 2:2; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12
 - 2. the spiritual toddler - 1 Corinthians 3:1-3, 13:11; Ephesians 4:14; Hebrews 5:11-14
 - 3. the spiritual child - 1 John 2:12-14
 - 4. the spiritual young man - 1 John 2:12-14
 - 5. the spiritual parent - 1 John 2:12-14; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12
- B. equip all Christians for the work of the ministry
 - 1. all Christians need to be equipped to share the Gospel - Acts 8:1, 4, 11:19
 - 2. all Christians need to be equipped to share the Word of God with others - Acts 19:8-10
 - 3. all Christians are to be equipped to build up one another and the body of Christ - Ephesians 4:11-13
 - 4. all Christians including the weakest member are necessary to do the work of the Lord - Ephesians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 12:21-22

Equip all Christians:		
for evangelism	to minister to one another	to teach the Word

C. Develop an excess of leaders

1. the example of the church at Antioch
 - a. two leaders - Acts 11:25-26
 - b. five leaders - Acts 13:1
 - c. many leaders - Acts 15:35
2. the focus needed to develop an excess of leaders - Ephesians 4:11-16
 - a. help each Christian grow to spiritual maturity
 - b. equip each Christian for ministry
3. the priorities we need to develop an excess of leaders - Exodus 18:19-21
 - a. our priority is to pray for each person we lead - Matthew 9:37-38; Ephesians 3:14-21 (especially note the results in verses 20-21)
 - b. our priority is to teach each person the Word of God - Acts 20:27
 - c. our priority is to show each person how to walk - Acts 20:20
 - d. our priority is to show each person the work to do - Matthew 9:10-13
 - e. our priority is to share the work with each person - Acts 6:3-7; (remember character is more important than skills - Acts 4:13; 1 Corinthians 1:27)

D. take responsibility for younger converts who move

1. the early church sent spiritual leaders to help younger Christians in their spiritual growth and ministry - Acts 8:14, 9:32, 38, 11:22
2. the early church shared together in this responsibility
 - a. the leaders took the responsibility for sending people to help new Christians - Acts 8:14
 - b. the whole church took the responsibility for sending people to help new Christians - Acts 11:22, 15:27, 30-32

E. encourage younger Christians to go with church leaders

1. Peter took younger Christians with him - Acts 10:23, 11:12
2. Barnabas helped younger leaders develop their ministry - Acts 11:25-26, 13:5, 15:39
3. Paul helped younger Christians develop vision and become equipped for ministry by taking them with him - Acts 16:2-3, 10, 18:19-20, 20:4

- F. help Christians take responsibility for their home areas
 - 1. Paul originally went to minister in his home area - Acts 9:30
 - 2. Barnabas took responsibility for his home area - Acts 4:36, 13:4-5
 - 3. Aquila and Priscilla went back to their original area which was Rome - Romans 16:3-5
 - 4. Epaphras took responsibility for his home area - Colossians 1:7-8, 4:12-13

II Becoming a sending church

- A. focus on making disciples rather than decisions
 - 1. disciples defined - Matthew 13:52
 - 2. disciple making demonstrated - compare Acts 2:47 and Acts 6:7
- B. give increasing opportunities for outreach
 - 1. help people to see the need - Acts 4:35; Matthew 9:36-37
 - 2. help people begin to pray for the lost - Matthew 9:38
 - 3. help people get involved in short term ministry - Luke 9:1-6, 10:1-12
- C. focus on the will of God
 - 1. show Christ focused on the will of God - John 4:34, 17:4, 26
 - 2. share motivation to do the will of God - 2 Corinthians 5:14, 20
 - 3. teach the will of God - 2 Peter 3:9
- D. help people lift up their eyes and look on the fields
 - 1. take people with you and expose them to your vision - Mark 3:13
 - 2. take people with you as you visit others in their homes and other places - Acts 2:46, Acts 20:20
- E. lead teams in cross cultural ministry
 - 1. Christ chose to expose His disciples to cross cultural ministry in their own area - John 4:3-4
 - 2. Christ chose to expose His disciples to cross cultural ministry in other areas - Matthew 15:21-22
 - 3. Christ had to speak through a vision to get Peter to see the need of other cultures - Acts 10:1-22
 - 4. Paul led a team that was cross cultural - Acts 20:4

- F. train couples for cross cultural church planting
 - 1. provide opportunities for couples to observe cross cultural evangelism - Acts 18:1-3, 8
 - 2. provide opportunities for couples to help develop a nucleus as a part of a church planting team - Acts 18:18-28
 - 3. provide opportunities for couples to lead a church planting team in cross cultural church planting - Romans 16:3-5
(notice that one of the church planting team had become a Christian in Asia - Romans 16:5)

- G. build multicultural church planting teams
 - 1. a multicultural team planted the church in Antioch - Acts 11:25-26, 13:1
 - 2. a multicultural team was the pattern from the beginning of the ministry of Paul - Acts 16:1-3, 8-11
 - 3. a multicultural, multiethnic, multilingual team became the pattern for Paul in later ministry - Acts 20:4
 - 4. a multicultural, multiethnic, multilingual team is becoming increasingly important in the large urban areas of the world today - Matthew 28:19-20

III Planting sister churches

- A. minister in terms of a region rather than a small area
 - 1. focus on the entire region - Acts 19:8-10
 - 2. focus on sharing the Gospel with the entire region - Acts 19:10
 - 3. focus on each of the different cultures in the region - Acts 19:10
 - 4. focus on building vision for the entire region - Colossians 4:13, 16

- B. center the work in the largest population center and the most mobile center in the area
 - 1. Paul helped plant churches in four of the five largest urban areas in the world during his ministry - Rome - Acts 28; Antioch - Acts 11; Ephesus - Acts 19; Corinth - Acts 18
 - 2. urban areas provide unique opportunities for church planting
 - a. cities are the transportation centers - all roads lead to Rome
 - b. cities are the business centers - Acts 16:14
 - c. cities have people from many different areas - Acts 2:5-13, 13:1
 - d. cities are very mobile and the Gospel can follow the movement of people - Romans 16:3-5; Colossians 4:13, 16

- C. focus attention on the needs of the surrounding area
 - 1. focus on the needs of the next towns - Mark 1:38; Matthew 4:23
 - 2. focus on the needs of the nearby regions - Luke 10:1; Acts 10:23
 - 3. focus on the spiritual needs of surrounding areas - John 4:35
 - a. first need is to lift up our eyes
 - b. second need is to see the fields (not just a field)

- D. emphasize our responsibility to multiply churches - Acts 9:31
 - 1. churches that are edified will see their responsibility to reproduce
 - 2. churches that walk in the fear of God have a reverential fear of God that produces obedience and reproduction
 - 3. churches which depend on the Holy Spirit for strength have the power to reproduce

- E. report what God is doing in other areas
 - 1. reports of God's work bring glory to God - Acts 11:18
 - 2. reports of God's work encourage the churches - Acts 14:27
 - 3. reports of God's work provide an example for others - 1 Thessalonians 1:7

- F. establish home Bible classes to develop a nucleus for a sister church
 - 1. home Bible classes provide an opportunity for evangelism - Matthew 9:9-13
 - 2. home Bible classes provide the opportunity to teach the Word of God - Acts 2:42, 46-47, 20:20-21
 - 3. home Bible classes provide the opportunity to build relationships - Acts 2:42
 - 4. home Bible classes provide an ideal opportunity to begin to develop new spiritual leadership - Acts 18:1-3, 26
 - 5. several home Bible classes in a particular area develop a larger nucleus to plant a church in that area

- G. help sister churches organize as independent churches
 - 1. develop the nucleus and then start public services - Acts 18:8-11
 - 2. determine the process for helping the developing church become independent of the existing church

A Final Challenge for Today

The rapid development of cities throughout the world means that new areas are continually developing where new churches need to be planted. In addition, more and more areas are becoming areas of many cultures and many languages. To effectively plant churches in such areas, we need to learn from the early church and develop multicultural, multiethnic, multilingual church planting teams. God greatly used such teams in the early church and He is using such teams today. Perhaps the Lord has been calling you to become a part of such a team to plant churches in various cultures. Will you respond as Isaiah did, in Isaiah 6:8, “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here *am* I! Send me.””