

The Operation of the 5-Fold Ministry in the 21st Century

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“The church’s Center of gravity is changing. According to *The Expansion of Christianity* by missiologist Timothy Yates, in 1900, most Christians were in the “sending countries” of Europe and North America. One hundred years later, in a proportion as high as sixty to forty, the balance has shifted to sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific – Christendom’s new center of gravity.” (Matthew Green, Managing Editor of *Ministries Today* and editor of *Understanding the Fivefold Ministry* (2005).

Peter Wagner marks 2001 as the beginning of a “2nd Apostolic Age” with the same flow of the Spirit as the 1st and 2nd century church. (Changing Church)

What kind of changes do churches need to make now in order to become operational in this apostolic flow of the 5-Fold Ministry?

Islam is growing at a rate of 2.11 compared with what is termed “Great Commission committed Christians” growth rate of 1.44. Global statistics for the most recent decade (middle of 2000 to middle of 2011) reveal Islam at a trend of 1.82 compared with 1.22. Islam grew 284.3 million and Christianity by 309 million adherents a difference of about 25 million. Hindus increased by 136.8 million and Budhists by 52.1 million followers. What has now been classified as the Neo-Apostolic (which includes NAR, New Apostolic Reformation) Global Christianity’s 6 Megablocks: Roman Catholic, Anglican, Orthodox, Marginal, Protestant (includes Pentecostal), and Independent/Neo-Apostolic. The latter is now the largest of the non-Catholic mega blocks and the only one of the six currently growing faster than Islam.

Global Christianity

- Roman Catholic
- Anglican
- Orthodox
- Marginal
- Protestant
- **Independent/Neo Apostolic**

World Christian Encyclopedia divides global Christianity into 6 megablocks: Roman Catholic, Anglican, Orthodox, Marginal, Protestant, Independent/Neo Apostolic. The Neo-Apostolic is the largest of the non-Catholic megablocks and the only one growing faster than Islam.

Worldwide Church Statistics

- Average size = 100; most 40-60; very small percentage bigger than 200
- 1 in 100 making decisions for Christ actually end up attending a church; church loses 99 out of 100
- Under 17% of members of churches of 100 or more involved in ministry in line with their spiritual gifts; 31% in smaller churches.

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Average size of churches worldwide is about 100; very small % is bigger than 200; most are 40-60.

1 in 100 who make decisions for Christ through evangelistic efforts actually end up attending a church; the church loses 99 out of 100.

Under 17% of members in churches of 100 or more are involved in a ministry corresponding to their spiritual gifts; 31% in smaller churches.

People Added to a Local Church

Attendance	People added in 5 years	Growth Percentage
1-100 (51 Avg.)	32	63%
100-200	32	23%
200-300	39	17%
300-400	25	7%
1000+ (2856 Avg.)	112	4%

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The average number of people added to a local church in a 5-year period: churches 1-100 (avg. 51) = 32 (63%); 100-200 = 32 (23%); 200-300 = 39(17%); 300-400 = 25 (7%); 1000+ (avg. 2856) = 112 (4%). If you divided the large churches smaller ones of 50 each they would win an average of 1792 or 16x more!

USA Past 10 Years

- 24 new churches started each week
- 72 churches closed each week
- 48 churches lost each week
- 2,496 decline in churches each week
- 24,960 decline in churches each decade
- 80% of existing churches have plateaued or are in decline

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24 new churches started each week in the USA during the past 10 years; 72 closed their doors weekly = a loss of 48 per week, 2496 a year and a decline of 24,960 a decade. Over 80% of existing churches in USA have plateaued or are in decline.

What are the first thoughts that come into your mind in hearing these statistics?

The Head of the Church

- But now **God has set** the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. (1 Cor. 12:18)
- And **God has appointed** these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. (1 Cor. 12:28)

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“Set” literally means God has properly placed each member in the body of Christ.
Has the sense of an upright and active position in the body.

The Foundation of the Church

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and **members of the household of God**, having been **built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone**, in whom the whole building, being **fitted together**, **grows** into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being **built together** for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.
Eph. 2:19-22

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The spiritual house is built from the foundation up with Christ as the cornerstone. Everything is closely fit together in Christ.

Governmental Ministries of the Church

And He Himself gave some to be **apostles**, some **prophets**, some **evangelists**, and some **pastors** and **teachers**, for the **equipping** of the saints for the work of ministry, for the **edifying** of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of **the fullness of Christ**; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, **speaking the truth** in love, may **grow up** in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what **every joint** supplies, according to the **effective working** by which **every part** does its share, **causes growth** of the body for the edifying of itself in love. Eph. 4:11-16

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These are called governmental ministries because they involve leadership/oversight of the church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The Scripture clearly shows that God's leadership structure is a team of distinct and interrelated/interdependent servant leaders.

The simple use of the hand can demonstrate the unique roles/functions of each 5-fold ministry:

Thumb = Apostle (foundation) able to touch all fingers of the hand

Index finger = Prophet (pointer) close association with the thumb

Middle finger = Evangelist (longest) able to reach the farthest

Ring finger = Pastor (marriage ring) married & stays with the flock

Little finger = Teacher (smallest) small enough to get in the ear

Dangerous Assumptions

- Leadership Roles
- Spiritual Authority
- Teamwork
- Goals of 5-Fold Ministers/Elders
- Spiritual Gifts
- Church Government/Structure
- Moral/Character Qualifications
- Spiritual Condition of the Church

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Often, there is an assumption among spiritual leaders that these areas are understood. We assume healthy teaching and discipline in these areas on the part of all leaders simply because they are “pastors.” These are dangerous assumptions! The above list, though incomplete, requires the utmost prayer, study of the Scriptures, reading, and experience in a variety of contexts with mature and experienced apostolic leaders from the key international centers.

Changing Trends in World Missions

Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out. Luke 8:22

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Some Significant Quotes:

One of the fundamental reasons for the failure of the church to implement the Last Command of the Lord Jesus Christ is lack of right structures. Patrick Johnstone

The purpose of the church is to bring God glory through the worldwide proclamation, reception and worship of His Son...Any church that is not seriously involved in world evangelism has forfeited its biblical right to exist! David Shibley

Those who are not lucid and pliable in the hands of the Holy Spirit will experience both the alienation of hyperchange and the gut-level knowing that they are out of sync with the "new thing" God is unfolding. That is why inverted churches with placid global vision look more like twentieth-century dinosaurs with each passing week. David Shibley (9)

If our traditional pattern of church government does not comply with the New Testament pattern, we must be willing to take steps to change the pattern. God is restoring the fivefold ministry to His church in our time. A.L. Gill (22)

We must have unity, and we must return to the kind of power the Early Church had if we plan to complete the Great Commission. To fulfill these priorities, we must see the gift of apostleship restored and added to a place of prominence equal to the other gifts. Cannistraci (19)

Example: If an evangelist led a thousand to Christ each day, it would take him over ten thousand years to bring in an end time harvest of 4.2 billion souls. If the same evangelist led only one person to Jesus each year, then trained that person to win one and train one in personal evangelism, it would take only 42 years to reach the same number of souls

Seven Trends

- Pastoral
- Support church
- Short-term
- Individual
- Senior role (USA)
- Missionaries & Mission Organizations
- Mission Boards
- Apostolic
- Sending church
- Apostolic operations
- Joint operations
- Junior role (USA)
- Direct connect by local churches
- 5-Fold Apostolic Ministry teams

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Pastoral model of 20th century will not and cannot fulfill the Great Commission. Pastors are one of the greatest hindrances to World Missions!

Supporting Church - **Sending Church**

Focus on money - **Focus on people**

The church chooses from those who have already established their strategy - **The church has more opportunities to establish its own strategy in concert with international leaders**

Focus on quantity - **Focus on quality**

Little personal involvement with the missionaries- **Maximum personal involvement with international leaders**

The church can claim only minimal ownership of its missionaries - **The church can claim its personnel as it own**

Benefits of Joint Operations:

Cost effective

Exposure to new apostolic leaders

Excellent development of future networking partnerships

Expands our horizons

New Testament Church Facts

- 48 Churches with no traditional “pastor” or one man over any of them
- No one was ever called “pastor”
- No where is it said that a “pastor” must be the head of the local church
- Greek word for “pastor” is only translated once as such

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Questions:

1. Why choose “pastor” from the fivefold ministry gifts and call almost every minister by this title?
2. Must the primary leader of a local church be the one with the ministry gift of “pastor”?
3. Where did the concept of today’s one man pastoral system come from?
4. Can it be changed? Is it really possible?
5. What is the governmental ministry of the church?

Scriptures that reveal there is a setting in order needed:

And God has appointed [*tithemi* – to set, put, place, fix, establish) these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. 1 Cor. 12:28

For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order [*epidiorithoo* – to straighten further, arrange additionally the things that are lacking, and appoint [*kathistemi* – to set one over a thing, place in charge) elders in every city as I commanded you— Titus 1:5

So when they had appointed (*cheirotoneo* – to vote by stretching out the hand) elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. Acts 14:23

I do not believe the order is referring to positional authority, but to function. Eph. 2:20 There is an order to church planting.

Comparison

Pastoral Model

- Pastoral
- Title/Position
- Solo
- One-dimensional
- Local vision (in-reach)
- Relational based
- Preservation
- Management driven
- Financial conservatism
- Limited accountability
- Residential

5-Fold Model

- Apostolic
- Calling/Function
- Team
- Multi-dimensional
- Global vision (outreach)
- Mission based
- Church planting
- Anointing driven
- Faith based
- Mutual accountability
- Non-residential

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Exclusive emphasis on shepherding and caring as opposed to the entire 5-Fold operation with balanced kingdom emphasis.

1. Positional authority vs. Servant Leadership
2. Centered around the pastor vs. a team of servant leaders
3. All is about pastoring (1 Pulpit) vs. a 5 pulpit focus.
4. Vision is the local church vs. reaching the community and nations for Christ.
5. Knowing & liking the pastor vs. what's it going to take to get the mission done.
6. Maintaining the church (facilities, salaries, pensions) vs. planting and parenting new daughter churches
7. CEO style vs. corporate prayer and ministry style.
8. Finances given top priority vs. lower priority
9. "Good ole boys club" vs. on-site evaluation and submission to one another.
10. Pastors stay, pray & obey vs. sending forth itinerant ministry teams to new territory.

Two Offices Set By God In The Church

- Elders (SOC)
- Deacons (SOC)
- Ruling
- Service

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Elders are specialized servant leaders while deacons are specialized servants.

Just like the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (SOC) Both are Special Operations Capable

Elders and Deacons were chosen differently

- Elders chosen by God and appointed by the apostles (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5)
- Deacons chosen by believers and confirmed by the apostles (Acts 6:1-7)

²³Paul and Barnabas appointed elders^o for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

⁵The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint^o elders in every town, as I directed you.

John 15:16 – to place

Luke 6:12-13 – Jesus chose from a larger group

Acts 9:15; 26:16 – Paul chosen in advance

Notice “elders” is in the plural (60x), which addresses the issue of the benefits of a plurality of elders

Benefits include: safeguarding church from one man rule like Diotrephes (3 John 9,10); provides checks and balances for the “chief elder”; makes a channel for the release of the manifold wisdom of God; provides multiple rule and feeding ministry in the local church; provides covering and protection for all elders.

Elder, Bishop, Overseer

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| ■ Acts 20:17 | ■ <i>Presbuteros</i> (pl.) |
| ■ Acts 20:28 | ■ <i>Episkopos</i> (pl.) |
| ■ Titus 1:5 | ■ <i>Presbuteros</i> (pl.) |
| ■ Titus 1:7 | ■ <i>Episkopos</i> (sg.) |
| ■ I Peter 5:1 | ■ <i>Presbuteros</i> (pl.) |
| ■ I Peter 5:2 | ■ <i>Episkopos</i> (pl.) |

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Elder, Bishop, Overseer in Scripture are speaking of the same thing
Abuses will occur when the terms are misunderstood and misapplied

- Bishops – Episcopal & Roman Catholic Church
- Eldership – Presbyterian Church
- Deacon Board – Baptist Church
- Apostolic – Fivefold ministries (Abuses occur here also)

Goals of Every 5-Fold Ministry

- Prepare God's people for works of service
- Build up the body of Christ
- Bring the body to unity in the faith
- Teach the knowledge of the Son of God
- Brings believers to a place of maturity
- Bring to the fullness of Christ

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The top three problems in India (700,000 villages; only 50,000 reached)

1. Denominationalism
2. Language (Disunity)
3. Caste spirit

Santhosh Babu, 5-Fold Regional Apostolic Leader for South India

And He Himself gave some to be **apostles**, some **prophets**, some **evangelists**, and some **pastors** and **teachers**, for the **equipping of the saints** for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ – from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. Eph. 4:11-16

The Work of Elders

- Support God's Anointed (Acts 20:17, 36-38)
- Earnestly & Willingly Tend the Flock of God (1 Pet. 5:1-4)
- Pray & Anoint the sick (James 5:14-16)
- Rule, Preach, & Teach (1 Tim. 5:17)
- Guard the Flock of God (Acts 20:28,29)

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Conner (122):

Ruling the flock of God

Teaching the flock of God

Shepherding the flock of God

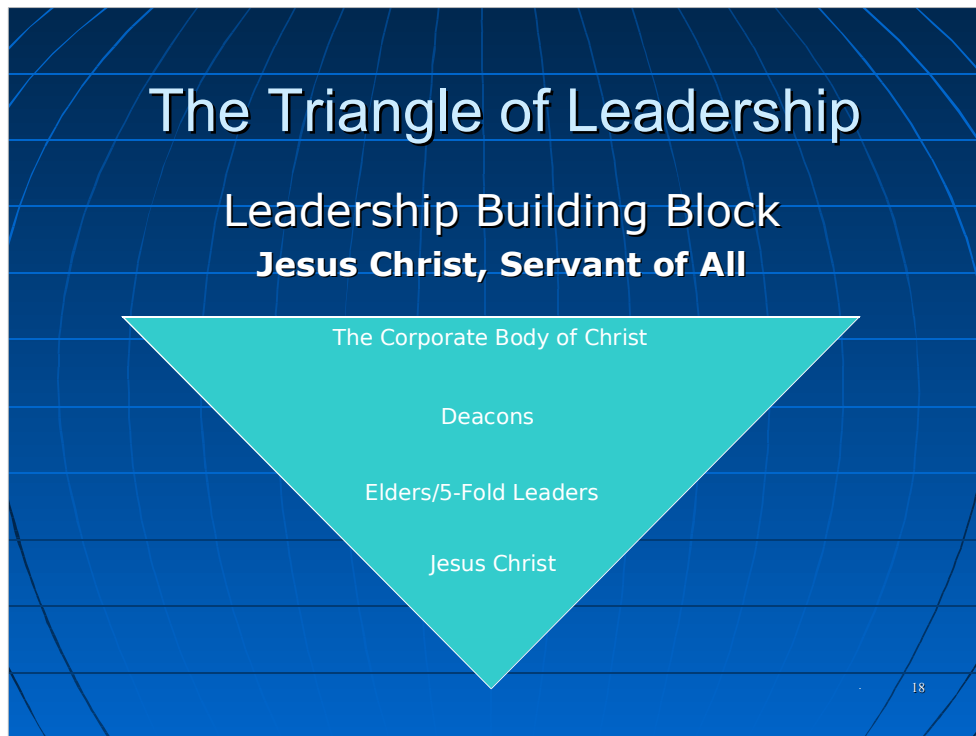
Overseeing the flock of God

Caring for the flock of God

Governing the flock of God

Living for the flock of God

Safeguarding the flock of God



Each building block poses its own level of responsibility, authority, and accountability. All are first and foremost God's servants.

Luke 22:24-27

24Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. 25And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' 26**But not so among you**; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. 27For who *is* greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? *Is* it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.

euergetes – a worker of good, a benefactor or philanthropist, a title of honor conferred upon one who has done their country service.

kurieuo – to rule, have dominion over, exercise lordship over

exousiazō – to control, exercise authority upon, bring under the power of

JESUS says "But not among you."



Responsibility: duty, task, mission as a leader

- something for which you are obligated

Leaders are responsible for mission accomplishment and the well being of the people of God

Authority: the ability to act

- The power (delegated authority/privilege) to influence or command thought, opinion, or behavior.

Must have teeth to create action.

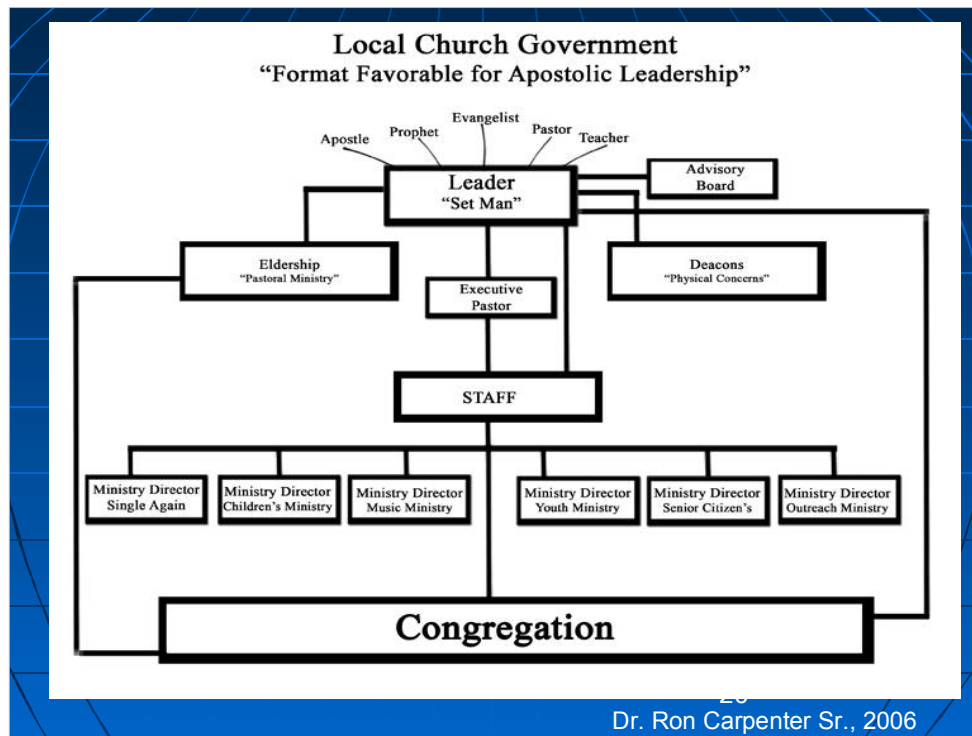
Accountability: liable for the outcome.

- Obligation to answer for the consequences of an action.

Accountability sets standards and expectations at every level.

Although an Ephesians 4:11 leadership team is a team consisting of God-ordained ministers called to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, we believe there is a local leadership that God also develops that is consistent with the gifts listed in Romans 12.

The question remains: What would happen if churches today would transition to a biblical leadership structure?



This flow chart presented by Dr. Carpenter is an attempt to blend the Ephesians 4:11 leaders into the conventional church structure. Although the attempt itself has merit, it will not release the operation of the 5-fold ministry because it retains a positional and restricted understanding of leadership when Ephesians 4 clearly reveals a functional and team understanding. In addition, the chart limits "eldership" to "pastoral ministry." James Murunga of Kenya and I actually found this chart unfavorable for apostolic leadership. The chart does reveal, however, why so many pastors or the "set man" have announced to their congregations that they now are apostles. The mono-pastoral model does not reflect the New Testament model for the body of Christ.

Spiritual Marines

"Marines overcome our natural fear of injury and death and fight for three chief reasons: First, we are well-trained and well-led. Second, we have convictions that will sustain us to the last sacrifice. Third, we fight for one another."

FMFM 1-0 Leading Marines, p. 21

Everything rises and falls on leadership!