

Apostolic Alignment



*Finding
Our
Place*

Connecting
Networking
Fathering
Aligning
Mentoring

In
The
21st Century
Body
Of
Christ

By Dr. Dan Cheatham

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Chapter 1: My Father, My Father

Ephesians 4

*Ephesians 4:7 KJV - But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. 8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. 9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers: [My note: The five offices or ministries listed above are what is commonly termed "The Five-Fold Ministry."] 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, [My note: **Proof that the apostles Jesus gave are still here with us today is the fact that the body of Christ has not yet come into complete unity. These five gifts are given "UNTIL"... "TILL" we come into unity. This does not diminish the importance or unique place that the original "12 apostles of the Lamb" held. No one could ever replace the 12 that walked with Jesus and those that were the original founders of the church.] and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.***

I Corinthians 4

1 Corinthians 4:14 KJV - I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you. 15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. 16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. 17 ¶ For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church. 18 Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you. 19 But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power. 20 For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power. 21 What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?

Note the reference to SONS and FATHER. Paul was a FATHER to the church at Corinth, not just an instructor. You may read many great Christian books... you may benefit from many Christian teachers... you may enjoy many ministries and conferences, but WHO IS YOUR SPIRITUAL FATHER?

Defining The Modern Day Apostle

An apostle is a founder. Many ministers are grounders, but not all are founders. We will discuss more on this distinction in a later chapter. An apostle may found a church, found a revelational truth, found a unique ministry, found a new group of Christians, found a ministerial fellowship, or found many other things.

Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers are **GROUNDERS**.

Apostles and Prophets, however, are **FOUNDERS**.

An apostle births things.

An apostle may birth other leaders.

An apostle sets things in order. (Titus 1:5)

An apostle is a **SPIRITUAL FATHER**. (1 Corinthians 4:14-21)

An apostle moves in signs and wonders. (2 Corinthians 12:12)

Most apostles in the Bible have **SEEN THE LORD**, at least in the form of a vision. (1 Corinthians chapter 15)

An apostle is a minister to ministers and a leader to leaders.

An apostle's mantle is "governmental" by nature.

Note Elijah and the Widow Woman. The widow woman **DISCERNED** that Elijah was her spiritual father and, as a result, enjoyed a lifetime of miracles because of her spiritual perception.

Note Elisha and the Wealthy Woman with her husband: This woman **DISCERNED** that Elisha was her and her husband's divine connection to God and, as a result, enjoyed harvest after harvest of miracles.

This woman did three things:

She **PERCEIVED** the prophet through spiritual recognition.
She **RECEIVED** the prophet by meeting his material needs.
She **CONCEIVED** the Prophet's Reward by receiving her miracle!

Elisha did three things:

He discerned her **NEED**.
He accepted her **SEED**.
He performed the **DEED**!

Note the relationship between Elijah and Elisha. Elisha would not let Elijah "shake him off" and was determined to serve him until the end. As a result, Elisha received a double portion of Elijah's anointing. When Elijah was taken from Elisha in a whirlwind and with chariots of fire, Elisha cried, "My father, my father..." as the mantle dropped from heaven. Elisha KNEW that he was Elijah's son in the Lord. Elijah KNEW that he was Elisha's father in the Lord. It was a Holy Ghost thing... a divine connection... a kingdom relationship birthed by Almighty God himself in both their hearts. "My *spiritual* father, my *spiritual* father..."

In this relationship, the father passed his mantle to the son. And in the passing, the mantle also doubled! It is always the Mantle, NOT the Minister... that gets the job done! The Mantle makes it happen!

Look at Paul & Timothy. Timothy was Paul's project... his spiritual son. Timothy served Paul faithfully, and Paul covered and nourished Timothy spiritually. Timothy came into the fullness of Christlike character and into the fullness of his ministry because of this father-son relationship. Paul was Timothy's spiritual mentor and father. Timothy was Paul's protégé.

Moses and Joshua are another shining example. Joshua became Moses' successor because of his faithfulness to serve under Moses for many years. He obeyed his orders and associated with the anointing on Moses' life... so much so that the anointing on Moses actually TRANSFERRED onto Joshua over time.

Traditional Church versus Fathers & Sons

Perhaps we are asking the wrong questions!

- Wrong Question? "What church should I join?"
- Wrong Question? "Which is the friendliest church?"
- Wrong Question? "Where do my friends go to church?"
- Wrong Question? "Where does my family go to church?"
- Wrong Question? "Who is the best preacher?"
- Wrong Question? "Which church has the best Praise music?"
- Wrong Question? "Where should I become a member?"
- Wrong Question? "Who has the best children's program?"
- Wrong Question? "Who has the best Teen Ministry?"
- Wrong Question? "Where will my gifts most be needed?"
- Wrong Question? "Which church has room for my talents?"

Perhaps there are better questions to ask:

- WHO is my spiritual father?
- WHAT pastor or leader is God knitting my heart to?
- WHO is my spiritual mentor?
- WHAT Man of God am I assigned to?
- WHO is my Elijah?
- WHO is my Elisha?
- WHO am I a Timothy to?
- WHO is a Paul to me?

WHAT spiritual father am I to serve and sow my life into?
WHICH Pastor is it the will of God for me to sit under?
TO WHOM am I yoked?
WITH WHOM am I aligned by God in the Kingdom?
WHO am I to be a son to?
WHERE is my spiritual father?

These kinds of questions take church out of the realm of BUSINESS AS USUAL, and impart true purpose, power, and destiny. A revelation of spiritual fatherhood and spiritual sonship will take us out of CHURCH AS USUAL.

The answers to these kinds of questions will take the church out of the realm of competition, out of the realm of politics, out of the realm of frustration, out of the realm of power struggles, and out of the realm of comparing ourselves to one another.

I Have Three Fathers

My Heavenly Father
My Natural Father, and
My Spiritual Father.

My natural destiny is directly tied to who my natural father is.

"WHEN I came into the world" was determined by my natural father, not by me. "WHERE I came into the world" was determined by my natural father, not by me. "WHAT kind of family I was born into" was determined by my father, not by me.

I wanted to be just like my father. So I went to the same college my father did: Virginia Tech. I was in the Corps of Cadets and served on Regimental Staff my senior year... just like my father. I chose the same college major: Engineering. I became a United States Air Force Officer just like my father and aspired to be a fighter pilot just like my father. Even today I have many of my father's values, his preferences, and many of his character attributes. Many of my personality traits and mannerisms, even my personality flaws are similar to his.

Likewise, my spiritual destiny is also directly tied to who my spiritual father is. A spiritual father can carry you into your divine destiny WITH HIM. Your destiny is connected to his destiny.

Henry Hinn, Benny Hinn's brother says, "Bastards are always looking for a new spiritual father." Sons KNOW who their spiritual father is.

A spiritual father is rarely your PAL, your BUD, or your FISHING PARTNER.

A spiritual father is the spiritual leader to whom you are assigned by God to: 1) GROW with, 2) FLOW with, and 3) GO with.

If you are OUT OF ALIGNMENT you cannot come into the fullness of your spiritual growth or the full fruitfulness of your ministry.

If you are not a spiritual son to someone you are OUT of kingdom alignment. You need a Holy Ghost chiropractic adjustment... and badly!

If you are not connected to your spiritual father, your success in the Kingdom of God is limited, at best.

If you are sitting in a church just ENDURING your "preacher", you are just playing church. Such an attitude is an affront to Almighty God who gave the five-fold ministry to his church. When Jesus ascended after His resurrection, He presented Himself to the Father, divided up his own anointings and abilities, and then placed them in individual men and women. The five-fold ministry of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers is one of God's most awesome gifts to mankind.

If you are not genuinely CONNECTED in your heart to a man of God, you are floating around in deep space weightlessness.

If you feel connected to your friends at church but don't feel connected in your heart to your pastor, you're in the wrong church, the wrong place! You're just following religious traditions.

If you have ever said, "I LIKE our new preacher," you are already out of alignment. If all he is to you is a "PREACHER" or a "MINISTER", you got it upside down. If he is not a true FATHER FIGURE to you, you are not really his son in the Lord. He cannot take you along into your divine destiny if you do not feel truly yoked to him by the Spirit of God. Either God will have to change your heart so that you can relate to the man of God correctly, or you need to pray and find the spiritual father to whom God is truly connecting you.

Your apostle, your spiritual father, will always be a step or two ahead of you spiritually. Don't follow the ministry of someone that is behind you. Follow the ministry of someone who the Lord keeps just ahead of you... close enough to relate, but ahead enough to motivate. (On a humorous note, someone has said: "If you are a step ahead of the people, you are a LEADER. If you are two steps ahead of them, you're a PIONEER. But if you are three steps ahead, you're a MARTYR.")

If you are not serving and sowing into a man of God whom you feel in your heart is a divine gift from God, you are stifling your own spiritual growth. You are also stagnating the spiritual growth of those around you too... your family and your friends.

If you cannot see yourself as a spiritual son to someone, you need to find your father. Something is wrong. Why? Because God has given the five-fold ministry as a gift to you.

If you are a preacher or pastor and you don't really have anyone whom you can call your spiritual father, YOU TOO ARE OUT OF APOSTOLIC ALIGNMENT, and you need to pray and take steps to allow God to connect you.

If you have offended a spiritual father or a spiritual father has offended you, go HONOR him at any cost to your pride, and ask forgiveness! Get the air cleared NOW. Do it quick! Don't delay. Don't hesitate. ALWAYS HONOR A SPIRITUAL FATHER. If you want things to go well for you and you wish to live long on the earth, go quickly and at least restore the HONOR of the former relationship.

WE HAVE TO ADMIT WE ARE SEEING A WHOLE LOT OF SPIRITUAL ABORTIONS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD TODAY: Churches that come and go. Stars that shoot across the Christian

media sky of popularity, but quickly flame out. Ministries that try to DUPLICATE what someone else is doing. People that start things, only to never finish them. A lot of fluff. A lot of SHAKY things. A lot of FLAKY things. Even with a church I recently pastored, if all the people that had ever attended for a month or more were still there, we would have had a church of one thousand or more. (I'm not talking about just visitors here, but those who came and stayed for a season.) The body of Christ is in a state of disarray because there are no spiritual fathers and because when there are, sons are betraying or dishonoring their spiritual fathers, or disconnecting from them altogether. BUT YOU CANNOT SUCCESSFULLY DISCONNECT FROM A SPIRITUAL FATHER ANY MORE THAN YOU CAN SUCCESSFULLY DISCONNECT FROM YOUR NATURAL FATHER. All DISHONORING of a father is penalized... God's Word says so!

In the American church, we have a SHOPPERS MENTALITY. We treat church and the things of God like the Shoppers TV Network.

“Honor thy father and mother, for this is the first commandment with promise...”

ALWAYS HONOR A SPIRITUAL FATHER.

HONOR IS THE FOUNDATION OF ANY LASTING RELATIONSHIP.

HONOR!... even if you disagree on some points!

A Spirit-filled believer CANNOT grow under a non-Spirit-filled leader. God WOULD NEVER place a charismatic believer under a non-charismatic father figure. It never ceases to amaze me how thousands of Spirit-filled believers decide to attend non-Spirit filled churches and sit under a non-Spirit baptized minister who will be gone in a few years or less. BUT THEN AGAIN THE MINISTRY HAS NOT UNDERSTOOD THE APOSTOLIC THEMSELVES AND THE MINISTRY IS NOT ALIGNED WITH ONE ANOTHER PROPERLY EITHER. MOST MINISTERS DON'T KNOW WHO THEIR OWN SPIRITUAL FATHER IS, MUCH LESS HOW TO BE ONE THEMSELVES.

SO HOW CAN ONE EXPECT THE PEW TO GET IN ALIGNMENT IF THE PULPIT HASN'T ALIGNED THEMSELVES FIRST.

THERE HAS BEEN A DEARTH IN THE LAND OF SPIRITUAL FATHERS. WHERE ARE THE FATHERS? WHERE ARE THE APOSTLES? Will the true apostles please step forward!

We have accidentally substituted many things for apostolic alignment: denominations, administrative boards, procedures, rules, just to name a few. But NOTHING can substitute for a FATHER-SON RELATIONSHIP. God aligns his kingdom through apostolic relationships, heartfelt connections and supernatural networking.

God's way of growing His kingdom is by creating father-son relationships that will outlast, outlive, and outwit the devil's schemes. When we get aligned in these father-son relationships and become passionate about HONORING and serving our fathers, our success in the kingdom is INEVITABLE! This is end-time revelation. This is last days divine order. Glory!!!

Chapter 2: Growing A Great People

This chapter will not make much sense to you until you have read Chapter 1, so if you haven't already done so, please read Chapter 1 first.

Proven Sons

Philippians 2:22 KJV - But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.

From the above verse, we can see that God's way of PROVING, TESTING, and PREPARING a man of God is to have him serve another man of God. Jesus even said in Luke 16:12, "And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?"

1 Corinthians 4:17 KJV - For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

Here again, in the above verse, we see that there should exist in the body of Christ father and sons relationships. Note also that Paul authenticates and validates Timothy's qualifications by noting Timothy's demonstrated FAITHFULNESS.

This is a problem today. Too many self-appointed people try to become leaders. And too many God-appointed leaders have not submitted themselves to a period of proving and serving another man of God. Because of this, many ministries have no seasoning, little experience, little salt, and have not developed lines of accountability. Then these ministers try to lead God's sheep and they have had no proving ground first. EVERY MINISTER needs to serve in a proving ground first, yoked to another more seasoned man of God, BEFORE he leads God's people on his own. This is God's SAFETY NET, both for the sheep and for his ministers. I am so sick of hearing about people who have gone out and gotten mail-order ordinations. Also, many ministries today try to join a ministerial association that they have no natural connection with, in order to accomplish their self-serving motives. But neither of these strategies can take the place of a true FATHER-SON RELATIONSHIP.

Those that prove themselves are then authenticated, validated, vindicated, and have passed the tests of character and faithfulness that automatically qualify them for further promotion and responsibility in God's kingdom.

How To Grow A Great Church

Psalms 127:1-5 KJV - Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. 2 It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep. 3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. 4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so

are children of the youth. 5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

In late 2005, God made Psalm 127 my theme scripture for 2006. God opened my eyes and showed me that he was changing the nature of my ministry into more of a "fathering" role, than a "doing" role. He showed me many things from this awesome Psalm.

EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE: Unless it was God growing my ministry and church, all my own efforts would be futile and I would wear myself out. That truth is rather obvious in this Psalm. But then God opened my eyes to even more truth from this Psalm. Realizing that the epitome of Hebrew literature and poetry is **PARALLELISM**¹, I suddenly saw that verses 1-2 EQUAL verses 3-5.

In other words, I saw that the way that **THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE**, is NOT directly by the spiritual father of the house, but **INDIRECTLY** by the **SONS**.

This Psalm says that the leader that has a quiver full of sons is a happy man. It's not just that he has many sons; here it is both quantitative AND qualitative. This Psalm says that it is **THEY** that shall speak with the enemies at the gate, NOT the father.

And Jesus said, "I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Jesus promised to build the church... but how? In Psalm 127, we have the Master Blueprint. The way to grow a **GREAT CHURCH** is to grow **GREAT SONS**, and then in turn, to let the **SONS THEMSELVES** grow the church. I was then reminded that, in Eastern cultures, how shameful it was for a father to have no sons, and how shameful women feel who cannot bear their husbands sons. It is a dynasty issue. It is an **HONOR** issue to Easterners, and we westerners have no clue. So a spiritual father is to **INVEST HIMSELF** into his spiritual sons and, in turn, his spiritual sons will build the spiritual bastion God so yearns for.

In other words, the way to grow a **GREAT CHURCH** is to mentor, empower, and groom **GREAT SONS**. A wise spiritual father will concentrate more on developing his spiritual sons than on his own ministry activity and "busy-ness." The wise spiritual father knows that if he invests in those that God shows him to be spiritual sons, **THEY THEMSELVES** will get the job done of growing a **GREAT CHURCH**.

Sadly, in America, we often sacrifice the longevity of ministry and the permanence of churches for immediate gratification of vision. We often get caught up trying to speed the vision's fulfillment, rather than investing in our sons for the long term.

So here I have made some suggestions for spiritual sons and spiritual fathers in the Lord.

¹ Parallelism in Hebrew Literature: In English, the epitome of poetry and prose is Rhyme and Meter. However, in many cultures, poetry has zero rhyme and meter and is all about some other dynamic. Hebrew poetry is all about **PARALLELISM**. The epitome of Hebrew literature is the ability to draw parallels between verses and/or sections of verses: The more parallelism, the greater the poetic value and the more skilled the art of communication! To the sight and ear of a Hebrew, parallelism is just as beautiful and easy to remember as rhyme and meter in our own culture. A masterfully crafted Hebrew song is full of parallelism as opposed to rhyme and meter. There are three kinds of parallelism: **SYNTHETIC**, **ANTI-THETIC**, and **SYNONOMOUS**. A synonymous parallel is when the following thought basically says the same thing as the preceding thought, but says it in a slightly different way. A synthetic parallel is when the second thought or second section of thought amplifies and builds upon the previous, bringing more clarity and truth to the subject matter at hand. An anti-thetic parallel is when the second thought or section of thought contrasts the opposite of the previous thought or section of thought. For practice, see if you can identify where and which kinds of parallelism are used in Psalm 1. Remember, parallelism may be found between consecutive verses, but also may be found between different sections of thought as well.

Suggestions For Spiritual Sons

1. Never steal a spiritual father's glory. Don't allow a competitive spirit to grow within you. Don't steal TIME before the people that belongs to him. Don't steal CREDIT that belongs to him. Even if you think you are the one that should be receiving most the credit for something, DON'T CHERISH YOUR OWN PRAISE. Always endeavor to point the people to their leader (your spiritual father). Always honor him in their presence. And don't allow people to unwittingly play you against your spiritual father.

2. Never steal a spiritual father's sheep, purposely or by default. Obviously, a church split is stealing sheep. But also be careful not to accept a leadership position in a nearby church or ministry without the full participation and blessing of your spiritual father. By default, automatically, whether you try to prevent it or not, some from your spiritual father's flock have already bonded with you, and they will inevitably want to leave with you or follow you later. And this is not healthy for them, you, your spiritual father, or his flock (which is your previous church family too). If it is too late, and this has already occurred, refer to "8" below.

3. Never refer to your spiritual father by first name alone in the presence of others. At least call him, "Pastor Bob" or "Bishop" or "Brother Thompson" or "Dr. Smith." UPHOLD GOD'S AUTHORITY THAT HE HAS DELEGATED INTO MEN. UPHOLD SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY because one day your own authority in the Lord will need to be upheld. See yourself as a pillar upholding the authority and anointing of God in the midst of His church.

4. Sow money, time, and assistance into your spiritual father's life, family, and ministry. Put his needs BEFORE your own. Elijah asked the widow woman to give him what was left of the cake and oil first, BEFORE she prepared the last cake and oil for her and her son. As a result, the jar of flour and the jar of oil were supernaturally multiplied for several years, even though there was a total famine in the land. Because she put the material needs of the man of God BEFORE her own needs, God blessed her, her family, and her future. "The man of God BEFORE myself!"

5. Become part of your spiritual father's vision. Lay your own vision and agenda down at God's altar. Adopt your spiritual father's vision and help speed it's fulfillment. Do this, knowing that God sees your seeds of faithfulness and that He may one day let you run with your own vision. Also fold parts of your own vision into the greater vision of your spiritual father, as long as he is a participant and places his blessing on these.

6. When in his presence, always submit and defer to your spiritual father. There may be some contexts of your serving where you alone are in charge. However, when together with your spiritual father, ALWAYS defer to him.

7. Never really disconnect from a spiritual father. Even if you and your spiritual father agree at some point to transplant you elsewhere or in your own ministry, NEVER REALLY DISCONNECT WITH HIM. Allow God to enrich your life by regularly touching base with him and allowing him to speak into your life. NEVER DISCONNECT: You may desperately need him somewhere in your future.

8. Keep the air clear between you and your spiritual father AT ANY COST to your flesh. If you have ever offended a spiritual father or feel that a spiritual father has offended you, QUICK, RIGHT NOW,

go fix it! Swallow your pride, eat some crow, initiate contact, and ask forgiveness for any way you may have handled things amiss (even if you think it was mostly he that handled things amiss). I have been on both ends of this phenomenon, and I can tell you that CLEARING THE AIR is worth ANYTHING. TRUST ME... knowing that there is hurt between you and a spiritual father is one of the worst feelings in the whole world. (It can kill you!) Knowing that there is strain between you and a God-anointed authority figure is very, very painful, and can result in many adverse side-effects. QUICK! Restore the relationship even if both your circumstances have changed. YOU NEED YOUR SPIRITUAL FATHER'S BLESSING! A father's blessing is a LAW OF SUCCESSION. Even Jesus had to be blessed by John the Baptist for him to succeed in his ministry. Joshua had to have the hands of Moses laid upon him and the blessing of leadership pronounced over him, before he could be fruitful in his own ministry. Even the Apostle Paul submitted to the BLESSING of the presbytery of five-fold ministers that was a Antioch. There is no price tag imaginable that can be placed on the enormous value of a spiritual father's BLESSING... even if it is a BLESSING after a storm. YOU NEED THE BLESSING. It is God's order and way of doing things... the LAW OF PROGRESSION... the LAW OF SUCCESSION... comes by the BLESSING of a spiritual father.

Suggestions For Spiritual Fathers

1. Invest TIME and TEACHING (not just time, and not just teaching, but both) into your spiritual sons. Assign them books to read that you have read. Involve them in some kind of leadership roundtable discussions from time to time. Empower them. Take the risk of investing yourself into your sons. No doubt, some may one day betray you in the future... this is just a risk you will have to take. But many more of your sons will bring you deep satisfaction and pleasure as you watch God raise them up and realize that you have been a part of their spiritual progression.
2. Never shame a spiritual son publicly or in front of his peers. Nothing will so tempt a son to disconnect with his father than this. As the old saying goes, Praise Publicly - Correct Privately.
3. DISCERN the season IF & WHEN a spiritual son is to be transplanted elsewhere. When fruit ripens on a tree, one can either pick it, preserve it, and transplant it elsewhere or... one can let it over-ripen, fall off the branches, and rot under his nose. Include your spiritual son in this process of discernment and change.
4. If a spiritual son betrays you to some degree or another, stay poised and ready to graciously receive him again. Sometimes a spiritual son may go sour and not pass God's tests of his character to some degree or another. But as the prodigal's father stayed ready to receive his son back again, you should open your arms in graciousness to receive him back in your heart, should the opportunity arise. I use the word RECEIVE rather than REINSTATE, because circumstances may have changed in your life or his life that would preclude a full REINSTATEMENT. Yes, a REINSTATEMENT in your heart is appropriate, but a REINSTATEMENT of previous responsibilities, etc. is often impossible or would not even be the will of God at the time. If the son acknowledges your importance in his life, you can still speak into his life from a distance, or indirectly, and both of you can still enjoy sweet fellowship from time to time.

Chapter 3: Servant Apostles

The Heartbeat Of A Spiritual Father

Certain Bible verses written by the Apostle Paul begin to make more sense after understanding the truth of Apostolic Alignment and spiritual fathers and sons. One can hear the heartbeat of a spiritual father as Paul declares:

1 Thessalonians 2:8 KJV - So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

Philippians 4:9 KJV - Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

2 Timothy 2:2 KJV - And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

1 Corinthians 4:16 KJV - Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

1 Corinthians 11:1 KJV - Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

Philippians 3:17 KJV - Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

1 Thessalonians 1:6 KJV - And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost.

It is quite clear from the above passages that a spiritual father is to INVEST HIMSELF, not just the Gospel, into his or her spiritual sons.

What Apostolic Alignment Is Not

This truth of spiritual fathers and sons does NOT mean that the spiritual father takes the place of the Lord Jesus in a spiritual son's life. It does NOT mean that a spiritual father is to rule over or dominate a spiritual son in a fleshly way. It does NOT mean that a spiritual son is dependent on his spiritual father in a strange sort of way. On the contrary, a spiritual father helps a son grow in dependence on the Lord, and to grow in his or her own leadership skills. The goal is not some kind of weird loyalty or strange control. Far from it! The goal is to grow new fathers who can, in turn, grow new sons from generation to generation. The goal of Apostolic Alignment is to INVEST in sons, and by so doing, leave a legacy of spiritual leadership on the planet. The goal is reproduction of mighty men and women of God who will themselves, by their own anointing, and in their own right, change the world for the Lord Jesus Christ.

One cannot take this truth of Apostolic Alignment out of context or out of balance with other Bible truths. The truth of spiritual fathers and sons is just ONE TRUTH. It would be dangerous to misapply it by emphasizing it to the exclusion of other truths in the Bible. Error happens in the body of Christ, not so much as by ignorance or even by bad intent, but usually by an overemphasis of a single truth. Then over time, that overemphasis actually grows into an error or abuse, rather than being a blessing as originally intended.

Some, I am sure, have and will take Apostolic Alignment to an extreme and use the truth for their own purposes. BUT THE SPIRIT OF A TRUE APOSTOLIC LEADER IS THAT OF A SERVANT. Paul says apostles are the LAST, not the greatest:

1 Corinthians 4:8 KJV - Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you. 9 For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. 10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised. 11 Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place; 12 And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: 13 Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day. 14 ¶ I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you. 15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. 16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. 17 ¶ For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church. 18 Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you. 19 But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power. 20 For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power. 21 What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?

And then, of course, there is this keystone teaching of Jesus:

Mark 9:35 KJV - And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.

Keep in mind that as Jesus sat down to INVEST HIMSELF into these men, he was functioning as a spiritual father Himself. He was "apostling" these men. And also keep in mind that these men were destined to be the first twelve apostles themselves. Jesus makes it very clear that only by possessing the attitude of being last of all and servant of all can one be a first class leader. Greatness is not measured by one's power over another. Greatness is measured by how low one can stoop to serve. The way up in the Kingdom of God is down! Down, down, down! Lower, lower, and yet lower still!

In these last days, God is looking for SERVANTS, not STARS.

Twice in Isaiah, Jesus is prophetically spoken of as "Behold my servant!" Not, "Behold my star" -but- "Behold my servant."

As we lose ourselves in serving, only then may we discover ourselves leading.

Ephesians 2 Apostles versus Ephesians 4 Apostles.

Ephesians 2:20 KJV - And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.

It seems clear to me that the list of Five-Fold Ministers in Ephesians chapter 4 is referring to the ascension gifts given by Jesus in each generation until He comes back to receive the church. But I believe that, kept in context, the Ephesians 2:20 apostles being discussed are the "12 Apostles of The Lamb," because the church is built upon their original writings. I believe the FOUNDATION Paul is referring to here is the FOUNDATION of the New Testament Apostles' writings, and the Old Testament Prophets writings. I do NOT believe it would be wise to say that the church is built upon the foundation of modern day apostles and prophets, although I do concede that the passage here does give us a clue as to the foundational nature of apostles as compared to some of the other five-fold offices. However, I do NOT think Paul would tell us to build our lives upon the foundation of modern apostles and prophets, which in my mind would be akin to replacing, or at least competing with, the final authority of the scriptures written by OT prophets and NT apostles.

Chapter 4:

Founders & Grounders

I will never forget in 1989 when I was minding my own business while driving the car, and the Spirit suddenly asked me a question: "Are you a Founder or are you a Grounder?" I have to admit that I was a bit surprised at the question, and a bit clueless about how to answer too. But because it was the Lord asking me the question I felt obligated to answer it. My reply was a bit wishy-washy, but the whole concept was brand new to me. I said, "Well, Lord, I guess I am a founder more than a grounder." He seemed to reply, "OK, good, now you know."

That one little nugget from the Lord has been somewhat of a lifelong progressive revelation for me. Over the years I have come to realize that there are two divisions to the five-fold ministry. There are the Founders and there are the Grounders.

The founding ministries are Apostle and Prophet. The grounding ministries are Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher.

FOUNDING is a SUDDENLY THING. Grounding is a LONG TERM THING. Founders thrive on pioneering and establishing things and grounders thrive on maintaining and improving things. Founders are like sprinters. Grounders are like long distance runners.

Evangelists GROUND sinners into Christ. Pastors and Teachers GROUND saints in God's Word and Christian maturity.

The worst thing that can happen is for a FOUNDER not to know he is a FOUNDER, and to try fit himself into the mold of a GROUNDER. The second worst thing is for THE PEOPLE not to understand that their leader is a FOUNDER, and by default, try to fit their leader into the more familiar expectations of a GROUNDER.

FOUNDERS tend to be more unpredictable than GROUNDERS. But we need both divisions of leaders in the body of Christ. Both divisions are of equal value to the Lord, but not necessarily of equal authority in the Lord. John The Baptist taught that "a man can do nothing of himself, but only what is given to Him by God."

Understanding Levels Of Anointing & Authority

In the past we have not understood the functions of each of the five-fold offices. We assumed that APOSTLES apostle (whatever that means?). We assumed that PROPHETS prophesy. We also said that EVANGELISTS evangelize, PASTORS shepherd, and TEACHERS teach. And that was about all we understood. We had each office neatly defined and tightly wrapped.

But I believe that the Lord has shown me how the five-fold ministry really works both by observation of men of God over the years, and also by revelation.

Note the listed order of the five-fold ministry in Ephesians 4:11. First - apostles. Second - prophets. Third - evangelists. Fourth - Pastors. Fifth - teachers.

There are some leaders in the body of Christ who are called to JUST TEACH. That is their passion; that is where their anointing is. But they may not be called to pastor or to shepherd a flock. Often these TEACHERS become associate pastors, elders or another under-leader in a local church setting. But unless God has anointed a person to be a PASTOR, he doesn't yet have or may never have the authority from God to become a Senior Pastor. (This is one of the reasons we see so many churches flop: Many who are not really called to pastor try to do so, and God has not anointed them to do it. But many today are immature and insecure. They cannot feel good about themselves unless they are recognized as first. They have issues concerning power and money.)

But then God anoints some TEACHERS to become LEADERS of a flock... A PASTOR. That PASTOR is anointed to TEACH as well.

Furthermore God anoints some to be EVANGELISTS. Now an EVANGELIST has the anointing to PREACH and win people to Christ on a larger scale than the pastor or teacher. But since the evangelist is of a higher level of authority than the pastor or teacher, the evangelist is not only anointed to win the lost, but can also pastor and teach.

Perhaps you're beginning to get the picture here. With each level of authority God gives a person, there exists not only that specific anointing, but it also includes all the anointings below that level.

In other words, a PROPHET is anointed with four anointings: Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher. An Evangelist is anointed with three: Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher. A Pastor is anointed with two: Pastor and Teacher. A Teacher with one: Teacher. An Apostle is anointed with all five levels of authority. That is why you will rarely see a young apostle. On the other hand, just because a man of God is older doesn't make him a prophet or apostle either.

Many think that if a person is really an evangelist that the person should be on the road all the time preaching to the lost and conducting crusades and revivals in churches. But that is a TRADITIONAL view of evangelists, not a BIBLE view. It's amazing to me how we have defined things over the years by our own traditions and upbringing, instead of by revelation from the Bible. I remember when I thought an evangelist was anyone who travels to different churches and conducts revival services. How did I get that thought? Someone else defined it for me! I had no concept of who GOD considered to be an evangelist. Duhhh!

Many also think that a Prophet or Evangelist should NOT pastor a church. But this view is bogus since a true God-anointed evangelist also carries the anointing and authority of a Pastor and Teacher as well.

Many men and women of God are even confused about their own five-fold office because they often find themselves anointed to operate in more than one anointing. So then they begin to question their place in the body of Christ when pressure comes, wondering if they are really doing what God has instructed. But if one understands that each level of five-fold ministry includes all the anointings below it, they will not question their office in the body, and it will bring peace and confidence.

My Own Journey

My own ministry journey of almost 30 years has been a strange one. First I was the teacher and co-founder of a small group of people who had formed a 1970's style Teaching Center (not exactly a church, although it later became one). Then I was a full time Jail and Prison Evangelist, thinking that this was definitely my ultimate calling. Later the Lord stopped me cold in my tracks and told me to become a Children's Pastor under a more seasoned man of God who was a true senior pastor. After that, God had me become a worship leader under another pastor when my original pastor moved. The next season was founding and pastoring a new church in another city for the next five years. Then God moved me back under the pastor for whom I used to lead worship and I became a worship leader again and a dean of a seminary and Bible college. I did this for 14 years and wrote many online books during this time. Then after being an associate pastor for 14 years, God told me to plant another church in another city, so I founded the one I am presently pastoring and hope never to leave. (By the way, notice I said above that God called me on both occasions to plant a new church in ANOTHER CITY. God would never call an associate under another man of God who had bonded to some of his sheep to plant a new church in the SAME CITY. I believe that's properly called DIVISION, NOT church planting.) Next, to my surprise, God began to have me launch a large weekly email devotional to missionaries, pastors, leaders, and believers all over the world. Before I realized it, God had me ministering to thousands on a weekly basis and the requests to be added to the weekly email came in constantly and continue to do so. Also to my surprise, the Lord SUDDENLY led me to launch an apostolic network of five-fold ministers under the leadership of my former pastor who by this time was obviously anointed and called to be an apostle, having had international impact on the subject of Christianity & Racism, and who himself had also accidentally discovered that God was making him a spiritual father too. Myself, my former apostle-pastor and another one of his spiritual sons who had grown a thousand member church himself (both who were now ordained bishops by other prominent leaders) began to realize that God had called us to father other ministers, not in a bureaucratic way (which is the old school and becomes an abusive paradigm, by the way), but to simply be there for these leaders and to offer them resources for growth and the warmth of relationships.

I only share the above progression of my own ministry, not to bore you, but to hopefully help you understand your own ministry progression, and to illustrate several things.

First, God often ADDS anointings and authority and greater spheres of influence as you continue to be faithful to your call.

1 Corinthians 4:2 KJV - Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

Jesus also spoke of faithfulness.

Luke 16:12 KJV - And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

Secondly, your ultimate ascension gift may be hidden from you until a time that God sees that you are ready to enter into it. He may give you sneak previews and hints along the way, but often He cannot unveil everything lest you mess it up before its appointed season.

Thirdly, you are not a weirdo for God using you in multiple ways and under various anointings.

Fourth, God may have to beat you up a little to get you where He wants. (Please understand that I am not saying that God sends "bad things" into your life, but as John Osteen used to say, "He sure doesn't waste them either!" Ha!)

And fifth, sometimes discovering who you are in the body of Christ also includes trial and error, process and elimination. Contrary to the view of many self-appointed "supersaints", everything that happens in your life and ministry is not a "STUPENDOUS FABULOUS EXCITING REVELATION." Much in ministry is the day in and day out routine of serving others and staying in prayer and The Word.

So after founding three successful churches, helping another apostle-pastor grow a church to 800, founding and building the popular website www.Devotional.Net that includes almost 200 books and downloadable posters, and faithfully pastoring over 2500 email subscribers, and now entering a phase of spiritual fathering, I am more than ever convinced that I am a FOUNDER, and not a GROUNDER. And ya know... "It's good to know what you're good for!" When you know who you are, it's easier to be yourself. And when you function like God truly made you, it brings tremendous peace and clarity to your soul.

Your Journey

My prayer is that this short teaching and my own testimony will shed even further light onto your own identity and function in the body of Christ. YOUR OWN JOURNEY IS IMPORTANT TO ME AND IMPORTANT TO THE FATHER. Jesus has gifted and anointed you to make a difference for such a time as this in the Kingdom.

Chapter 5

Named New Testament Apostles

At least 20 men are named and titled as apostles in the New Testament. And Timothy and Silvanus are implied to be apostles as well, making the total no less than 22.

LEXICON DEFINITION: 652 apostolov, apostolos, ap-os'-tol-os, from 649; TDNT-1:407,67; n m AV-apostle 78, messenger 2, he that is sent 1; 81 1) a delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders, 1a) specifically applied to the twelve apostles of Christ, 1b) in a broader sense applied to other eminent Christian teachers, 1b1) of Barnabas, 1b2) of Timothy and Silvanus

The Original Twelve - Revelation 21:14 KJV - *And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles <652> of the Lamb.*

Matthias – Acts 1:25 KJV - *That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. 26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles <652>.*

Paul and Barnabas – Acts 14:14 KJV - *Which when the apostles <652>, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out.*

Andronicus and Junia – Romans 16:7 KJV - *Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles <652>, who also were in Christ before me.*

James – 1 Corinthians 15:7 KJV - *After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles <652>. Galatians 1:19 But other of the apostles <652> saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.*

Titus – 2 Corinthians 8:23 KJV - *Whether any do enquire of Titus, he is my partner and fellowhelper concerning you: or our brethren be enquired of, they are the messengers <652> of the churches, and the glory of Christ.*

Epaphroditus - Philippians 2:25 KJV - *Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but **your messenger <652>**, and he that ministered to my wants.*

Of particular note in the above verse is the term, “your messenger” which is more literally translated “your apostle.” This seems to indicate that apostles may be assigned to certain groups of people, and that an apostle’s realm of influence may be limited to those to whom he has been assigned by God. An apostle is not necessarily an apostle to everyone. This truth is further confirmed by 1 Corinthians 9:2 where Paul says, “If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.” This also indicates that a person may be assigned to a certain “apostle” or “spiritual father.”

Chapter 6

Examples Of Modern Apostles

Apostles have really been among us for quite some time; we just haven't called them apostles out of fear of comparing someone with a writer of the New Testament (the original "12 Apostles of the Lamb"). But it is time for the body of Christ to let God-called men move fearlessly into their offices. Global harvest awaits men of God flowing in their gifts and knowing who they really are in the Lord.

Below are a few kinds of apostles I have recognized in the body of Christ:

- Apostle Of A Church (Founder, Planter).
- Apostle Of Multiple Churches (Overseer)
- Apostle Of A City.
- Apostle Of A Region.
- Apostle Of A State.
- Apostle Of A Nation.
- Apostle Of A Bible Truth that God wants restored to the church at large.
- Apostle Of Apostles.
- Apostle Of Pastors.
- Apostle Of Evangelists
- Apostle To A Certain Sub-Culture
- Apostle To A Segment Of Society
- Apostle Of The Internet
- Apostle Of A Realm of the Media
- Apostle Of A Sphere Of The Arts
- Apostle Of A Groundbreaking Paradigm
- Apostle Of the list goes on!

Below are some Bible, history, and modern day examples:

- Peter - The Apostle To The Jews. (Galatians 2:8)
- Paul - The Apostle To The Gentiles. (Ro 11:13, Galatians 2:8)
- James - The Apostle Of The Church At Jerusalem. (Acts 15:13)
- John - The Apostle Of The 7 Churches In Revelation. (Rev 1:4)

- Martin Luther - The Apostle Of The Protestant Reformation.
- EM Bounds –An Apostle Of Personal Prayer.
- John Wesley - The Apostle Of The Holiness Movement.
- Charles Wesley - An Apostle Of Hymn Worship.
- William Seymour - An Apostle Of The Pentecostal Movement.
- Watchman Nee - An Apostle Of Brokenness.
- Dwight Moody - An Apostle Of Evangelism.
- Dake - An Apostle Of Bible Study.

Smith Wigglesworth - An Apostle Of The Gift Of Faith.
Kathryn Kuhlman - An Apostle Of The Working Of Miracles.
Kenneth Hagin - An Apostle Of Faith & Healing.
Derek Prince - An Apostle Of The Charismatic Movement.
Lester Sumrall - An Apostle Of The Charismatic Movement.
John Osteen - An Apostle Of The Charismatic Movement.
Bill Bright - An Apostle Of College Campus Evangelism.
Jack Hayford - An Apostle Of Worship & the Foursquare Church.
Oral Roberts - An Apostle Of Divine Healing.
Billy Graham - An Apostle Of Mainstream Evangelism.
James Kennedy - An Apostle Of One-On-One Evangelism.
TL Osborn - An Apostle Of Signs & Wonders Mass Evangelism.
Joyce Meyers - An Apostle To Spirit-Filled Women.
TD Jakes - An Apostle Of Manhood & Womanhood.
Kenneth Copeland - An Apostle Of Love & Prosperity.
Paul Yongghi Cho - An Apostle Of Church Growth & Prayer.
Richard Roberts - An Apostle Of Healing & Higher Education.
Benny Hinn - An Apostle Of Healing & The Holy Spirit
Mike Murdock - An Apostle Of Wisdom & Prosperity.
John Avanzini - An Apostle Of Prosperity.
Frederick K. C. Price - An Apostle Of Faith & The Word
Dutch Sheets - An Apostle Of Prayer.
Rick Joyner - An Apostle Of Apostles & Prophets.
Bill Hamon - An Apostle Of Apostles & Prophets.
C. Peter Wagner - An Apostle Of Apostles & Prophets
Kay Arthur - An Apostle Of Bible Study.
Pat Robertson - An Apostle Of Christian TV.
Jerry Falwell - An Apostle Of Higher Education & Activism.
Cal Thomas - An Apostle Of Christian Commentary Radio.
Donald Wildmon - An Apostle Of Christian Activism.
James Dobson - An Apostle Of The Family Unit & Activism.
John Maxwell - An Apostle To Leaders.
Paula Price - An Apostle Of Prophets & Church Order.
Coy Barker - An Apostle Of Evangelism and Church Growth.
Bob Hellmann - An Apostle Of Racial Reconciliation.
Tommy Ray O'Dell - An Apostle Of Mass Miracle Evangelism.
Kent Henry - An Apostle Of Praise & Worship.
Lamar Boschman - An Apostle Of Praise & Worship.
James Robison - An Apostle Of World Missions.
Rodney Howard Browne - An Apostle Of Revival.
Steven Strang - An Apostle Of Spirit-Filled Publishing.
Houston Miles - An Apostle Of Pastors.
Freda Lindsay - An Apostle Of World Missions Higher Education.
Creflo Dollar - An Apostle Of The Southeast USA.
Joel Osteen - An Apostle Of A Megachurch & TV Evangelism.
Charles Capps - An Apostle Of Faith & Scripture Confession.
Myles Munroe - An Apostle Of The Kingdom Message.
Tommy Tenney - An Apostle Of Prayer.
Ken Sumrall - An Apostle Of The Charismatic Movement.

David Wilkerson - An Apostle Of Urban Evangelism.
Tommy Barnett - An Apostle Of Mega Church Growth.
Marilyn Hickey - An Apostle Of Women In The Ministry.
Gloria Copeland - An Apostle Of The Word.
Charles Capps - An Apostle Of Faith Confession.
Cindy Jacobs - An Apostle Of Intercessory Prayer.
Larry Stockstill - An Apostle Of World Missions.
Arthur Paul - An Apostle of Bangalore, India.
Judah Flourish – An Apostle to Liberia.

Many, many more!

Annex I

Dr. C. Peter Wagner Notes

(Revised March 16, 2001)

I. Foundational or governmental gifts.

The basic text is Ephesians 4:11: “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.” I like to call these foundational or governmental gifts or offices. Others call them “fivefold ministry” or “ascension gifts.” Now that these offices are being recognized, it is important to develop agreed-upon protocol as to how they should relate to each other positively. I have worked on apostles/prophets in *Apostles and Prophets: The Foundation of the Church* (Regal Books) and pastors/prophets in *Pastors & Prophets: Protocol for Healthy Churches*. I now see that some work needs to be done on apostles/apostles because it is becoming clear that there are many different kinds of apostles who minister in many different spheres.

II. Definition of apostle:

An apostle is a Christian leader gifted, taught, commissioned, and sent by God with the authority to establish the foundational government of the church within an assigned sphere of ministry by hearing what the Spirit is saying to the churches and by setting things in order accordingly for the growth and maturity of the church.

What I have excluded in this definition: There are three biblical characteristics of apostles which some include in their definition of apostle, but which I have chosen not to include:

- (1) signs and wonders (2 Cor. 12:12),
- (2) seeing Jesus personally (1 Cor. 9:1), and
- (3) planting churches (1 Cor. 3:10).

My reason for this is that I do not understand these three qualities to be non-negotiables. They characterize many, perhaps most, apostles. But if a given individual lacks the anointing for one or more of them, this, in my opinion, would not exclude that individual from being a legitimate apostle.

III. Hyphenated apostles:

Before considering the different ways that apostles minister in different spheres, it is important to recognize that many apostles are “hyphenated apostles.” They are frequently hyphenated with other government offices, such as Apostle-Prophet or Pastor-Apostle or Apostle-Evangelist, etc. They can also be hyphenated within the different ministry categories pertaining to apostles, such as horizontal apostle-vertical apostle or convening apostle-mobilizing apostle, etc.

IV. The title "Apostle":

There continues to be discussion as to the necessity of actually applying the title "apostle" to individuals in the church today. Some argue that functioning as an apostle is enough without needing to use the title. My conclusion is the contrary. While I concede that the function is the most essential consideration, I also believe that there is increased power in the use of the title "apostle." The function, in my opinion, will be more anointed and more of a service to the church if the title is used.

Jesus Himself was the one who coined the new term "apostle," (Luke 6:13) (It does not appear in the Old Testament.), and I suspect that He had a distinct purpose for doing it. Later on, both Paul and Peter introduced themselves in their epistles with the title "apostle." Today we freely use the titles "pastor" or "reverend" or "bishop" or "evangelist" or "doctor" (i.e., teacher), and there seems to be little reason, other than a possible fear of change, to exclude the title "apostle" as a designation for contemporary church leaders.

It is also important to recognize that "apostle" occurs in one of the lists of spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 (see 1 Cor. 12:28). The gift and its accompanying office are significant enough to be declared, along with prophets, as the foundation of the church (see Eph. 2:20).

V. The adjective alone is not enough.

Some advocates of the apostolic movement have chosen to use the adjective "apostolic" in their writings to the exclusion of the noun "apostle." They speak of "apostolic leadership" or "apostolic churches" or "apostolic ministry" with the implication that by doing so they are describing apostles. There are at least two reasons for this.

(1) Some use the adjective and not the noun because they do not believe that the gift and office of apostle are operative in the church today. A case in point is the American Assemblies of God. An official public denominational position statement was issued by the General Presbytery of the General Council of the Assemblies of God on August 11, 2000 under the title, "Endtime Revival—Spirit-Led and Spirit-Controlled: A Response Paper to Resolution 16." Under a subsection, "Deviant Teachings Disapproved," one of what is referred to as a departure from scripture which threatens the life and stability of local churches is "The problematic teaching that present-day offices of apostles and prophets should govern church ministries at all levels." This teaching is attributed to "persons with an independent spirit and an exaggerated estimate of their importance to the kingdom of God." Such persons are "wrongly interpreting 1 Corinthians 12:28 and Ephesians 2:20 and 4:11." This paper argues that "The leadership of the local church, according to the Pastoral Epistles, is in the hands of elders/presbyters and deacons. There is no indication in these last writings of continuing offices of apostles and prophets, though the ministry functions still continue." The section ends by arguing for the adjective, not the noun: "We affirm that there are, and ought to be, apostolic- and prophetic-type ministries in the Church, without individuals being identified as filling such an office."

Just as a footnote, David Cartledge of the Australian Assemblies of God, in his book *Apostolic Revolution* (Paraclete Institute), attributes this position of the American Assemblies of God to "Pentecostal Cessationists!" (p. 236).

(2) Another reason given for this by those who do believe that the office of apostle is operational today is that the adjective could provide more of an entry level approach for others who might not yet be ready to recognize the office implied by the noun “apostle.” This was the case with the first book on the apostolic movement published in Australia, *Out There! The Church of the 21st Century*, edited by Ben Gray. However, as John Eckhardt points out in his book *Leadershift*, every church should be an apostolic church, every believer should be apostolic, every teacher should be apostolic, every evangelist should be apostolic, and so on. If this is the case, which I agree with, then the adjective “apostolic” is not specific enough to substitute for “apostle” as a noun.

VI. Apostolic Spheres.

Among practicing apostles, I have found a relatively low level of practical understanding of apostolic spheres. All apostles recognize that they have divine authority, but not all are aware that this authority is only activated within a divinely-appointed sphere. Once apostles get outside of their sphere, they have no more authority than any other member of the body of Christ. Paul relates spheres to authority in 2 Cor. 10. In verse 8 he “boasts” of his authority, leading to verses 13-16 in which he deals with spheres. He says, for example, “We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you” (2 Cor. 10:13). This reflects Paul’s remarkable statement in 1 Cor. 9:2: “If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you.”

VII. Toward a useful terminology.

The current apostolic movement is so new, and it is developing at such a dizzying speed, that a considerable amount of confusion has arisen. Who is an apostle? Are all apostles the same? How do bona fide apostles minister? I believe that the answers to these and other similar questions will emerge through a phenomenological approach. This is the methodology that I have used to arrive at a continually-developing set of conclusions. Terminology that accurately describes current apostolic phenomena will greatly help dispel the confusion. Here is a terminology that seems to me to be helpful, at least at this moment:

Vertical Apostles

- Ecclesiastical apostles. Apostles who are given authority over a sphere which includes a number of churches, presumably in an apostolic network headed up by the apostle.
- Functional apostles. Apostles who are given authority over those who have an ongoing ministry in a certain specific sphere of service which has defined boundaries of participation.
- Apostolic Team Members. Apostles whose apostolic ministry functions in conjunction with an apostle who is seen as the leader of a team of one or more other peer-level vertical apostles. They may be assigned specific spheres by the leading apostle. These are more than administrators or assistants or armor-bearers.
- Congregational apostles. Apostles functioning as senior pastors of dynamic, growing churches of more than 700-800.

Horizontal Apostles

- Convening apostles. Apostles who have authority to call together on a regular basis peer-level leaders who minister in a defined field.
- Ambassadorial apostles. Apostles who have itinerant, frequently international, ministries of catalyzing and nurturing apostolic movements on a broad scale.
- Mobilizing apostles. Apostles who have the authority to take leadership in bringing together qualified leaders in the body of Christ for a specific cause or project.
- Territorial apostles. Apostles who have been given authority for leading a certain segment of the body of Christ in a given territorial sphere such as a city or state.

Marketplace Apostles

It seems clear that some marketplace apostles would be vertical (perhaps within a large company) while others would be horizontal (bringing together peer-level marketplace apostles). The more we work with marketplace apostles, the more clarity will come in due time.

Some Quotes About Apostolic Reformation From An Interview With Dr. C. Peter Wagner

..."Some of these changes are being seen within denominations themselves, but for the most part they are taking the form of loosely structured apostolic networks. In virtually every region of the world, these new apostolic churches constitute the fastest growing segment of Christianity."

Within this reformation, Wagner sees a growing recognition of present-day apostolic ministries who are giving birth to their own family of leaders and churches to whom they have a relational, fatherly or motherly commitment to.

"The biggest difference between New Apostolic Christianity and traditional Christianity is the amount of spiritual authority delegated by the Holy Spirit to individuals," Wagner emphasizes. "In tradition Christianity, authority resided in groups such as church councils, sessions, congregations, and general assemblies. New Apostolic Christianity sees God entrusting the government of the church to individuals."

Within New Apostolic Christianity, Wagner sees this governmental authority being exercised in the local church by the pastor and on a translocal level by apostles who operate with a relational authority rather than a hierarchical, bureaucratic one that had typically been exercised through denominational structures.

"The other important thing with regards to this authority is that allegiance or relationship with the apostle is voluntary," adds Wagner.

"There is nothing that holds the pastor or the church related to the apostle in the apostolic network except the perception that the apostle is adding value to their life and ministry."

Apart from authority structures, Wagner cites a number of other characteristics which are common among new apostolic churches around the world. Perhaps the one that has permeated the rest of Christianity the most is the contemporary worship style which was pioneered within these churches and is now seen among congregations in virtually every denomination.

"Whether the other aspects of the New Apostolic Reformation will have the same type of influence, I don't know. But worship already has," Wagner says.

Annex 2:

Dr. John Eckhardt Notes

Quotes From Apostle Dr. John Eckhardt's 2005 book titled, "A Shift In Leadership- From Pastoral To Apostolic"

Highlights:

"Once apostles are released, we will see the release of thousands of pastors within the local church to help shepherd the flock."

"Some would say, "It is not important to be called an apostle, just do the work." I agree that it is better to have the work without the title, than the title without the work. There are many that would claim apostleship without having the signs of a proven apostolic ministry. It is, however, important for people to know their gifting and calling in order to be able to walk in it confidently and boldly. When people do not know their identity, they will often miss their purpose."

"There are many leaders who are even afraid of the term "apostle." They are comfortable with "pastor" because it is accepted and respected by most of the church and the community. We cannot be afraid of the terms God has given us in His word."

JOHN ECKHARDT WRITES:

1. This book is designed to help leaders shift into the prevailing position that God is establishing upon the earth. This prevailing position is apostolic. Not only must leaders shift, but entire congregations must also shift. If leaders shift without their congregations shifting, they will leave the membership behind and the result will be a gap between the leaders and the members.
2. When the leadership of the church shifts, the entire church will shift as well. Our desire should be to raise up an apostolic company of believers who have a sense of being "sent." The entire Church needs to shift into this dimension. The church in the Book of Acts was first and foremost an apostolic church. They ministered in apostolic power and turned the known world upside down. The book is, after all, called The Acts of the Apostles.
3. You cannot fulfill an apostolic calling with a pastoral mind-set. A pastoral mind-set will limit the leader and confine him to the local church. Many leaders are beginning to realize that what they have been doing is apostolic, yet they have been limited by a pastoral mentality.
4. If leaders do not move into new positions, they will die spiritually within the four walls of the church. They will experience dryness, and their ministries will become routine. They will be unhappy and unsatisfied, even though it may look successful on the outside. On the inside these ministers will feel empty. Many are afraid to transition because they think the church is dependent on them.
5. If churches do not release their leaders to move into a higher level of ministry, they will frustrate the leaders and grieve the Holy Spirit. Churches must be set free from what they think their leaders

should be and do. We will see more leaders raised up that will not fit the traditional concept of "pastor." They cannot be locked into a position and place because of the expectations and demands of the people. Both leaders and churches must be free to operate in the higher callings and gifts of God.

6. Leaders cannot be afraid to make this shift. Fear will paralyze you and prevent you from possessing your inheritance. There are many leaders who are even afraid of the term "apostle." They are comfortable with "pastor" because it is accepted and respected by most of the church and the community. We cannot be afraid of the terms God has given us in His word. We have received Holy Ghost inspired words to understand spiritual things (1 Co 2:13)

7. Even the world knows the importance of shifting. Economies must shift to continue to grow. We have shifted from the industrial age to the communication age. Nations and economies that do not shift are left behind and become obsolete. Obsolescence is a terrible price to pay for not being willing to change. Obsolete means to be of a discarded or an outmoded type. It means to be out-of-date.

8. Methods can become obsolete. Models and structures can become obsolete. Organizations can become obsolete. When something becomes obsolete, it is no longer relevant. God will upgrade our methods, structure, and models to be able to impact our world.

9. This change for many may seem like a quantum jump. The shift from a pastoral to an apostolic role is a significant jump. However, by the grace of God we can make the transition. Quantum jumps have happened throughout church history. God often moves us into greater levels suddenly.

10. We have seen many leaders identified as "pastors" who have planted and built strong churches, which are apostolic functions. We have locked many of them into a pastoral role and not allowed them to function in the calling of an apostle. The church has been pastoral for so long until we have not known any other way. But God is challenging the church to change and come in line with His purpose. Once apostles are released, we will see the release of thousands of pastors within the local church to help shepherd the flock.

11. Many pastors will be afraid to recognize and release other pastoral gifts for fear of them gathering small flocks around them. They have inherited a system that creates suspicion and distrust. This is why leaders must develop an apostolic mindset. Apostles are also shepherds. WHEN JESUS SAW THE MULTITUDES, HE SENT OUT TWELVE APOSTLES, NOT TWELVE PASTORS (Matthew 9:36;10:42)

12. The apostolic anointing must become the dominant anointing.

13. The pastor thinks in terms of safety and protection. The apostle thinks in terms of expansion and progression. This does not make one better than the other. They are both needed in the church. The problem occurs when the pastoral anointing becomes the dominant anointing of the local church. The church then thinks only in terms of safety and protection, and often eliminates the other gifts that may be more radical and progressive. The result is the church becoming too pastoral at the expense of not being apostolic and prophetic. On the other hand, churches that are apostolic can be so without the expense of losing the pastoral. The apostolic ministry has the capacity to embrace the other gifts. The apostolic mentality is anointed to think largely and to incorporate all the gifts of God. The pastoral mind is not anointed in the same way.

14. The word "first" in reference to apostles in 1 Corinthians 12:28 is the Greek word "proton", meaning first in time, order, or rank. First also means principle or primary. The apostolic anointing should be the primary, foundational anointing of the Church. We are first and foremost *sent* by the risen Lord. The commission Jesus gave the church is an apostolic commission. This is why the apostolic anointing should be the dominant anointing in the church.

15. The word "proton" is also the root of the word "prototype". We need to see PROTOTYPE CHURCHES built that will be models for the 21st century. These churches will have strong apostolic leadership.

16. Let us begin with the teaching element. If a church is to transition into an apostolic position, the minds of the people must be renewed. People must receive the revelation. This is called "re-laying apostolic foundations." The previous foundation of the church will not be sufficient to build and expand upon.

17. One reason teaching is so important is that people will not be able to make the shift unless they shift in their minds. Most people have been trained to think pastorally. They have a parish mentality. They join a church and spend all their time and energy maintaining the church and getting their needs met. All the resources for most local churches, both natural and spiritual, go into maintaining the local church and meeting the needs of the members.

18. The apostolic mentality is quite different. The leader is released by the people into an apostolic function to the larger body of Christ.

19. The leader must spend time teaching and training the people in new truth so that the entire congregation can transition into a new position. Once people are convinced that what we are doing is scriptural, they can confidently embrace what we are building. Once people know that what they are walking in is truth, they will not compromise because of persecution. The people must see the benefits of change. People must develop an appetite for new wine. The diet of the church must change.

20. Why did Jesus choose the twelve apostles? Why didn't he choose twelve prophets or priests? The ministry of apostle is a New Testament ministry.

21. Some would say, "It is not important to be called an apostle, just do the work." I agree that it is better to have the work without the title, than the title without the work. There are many that would claim apostleship without having the signs of a proven apostolic ministry. It is, however, important for people to know their gifting and calling in order to be able to walk in it confidently and boldly." When people do not know their identity, they will often miss their purpose."

22. Apostles must be free from all of the normal administrative duties placed on most church leaders.

23. Apostolic churches are called to pull down strongholds in regions over which they have jurisdiction.

24. An apostolic presbytery is able to prophesy and impart. (1 Timothy 4:14) They have an apostolic mentality because they have apostolic leadership within the presbytery. The order and ranking of ministry is respected within the presbytery. The Antioch church becomes our model church. The

church begins to migrate from a pastoral position to an apostolic one without losing the pastoral dimension. The members will still be cared for because of the release of pastors.

25. A team is stronger than one man.

26. Many apostolic and prophetic ministries have been killed by administrators. When the administrative anointing supersedes the apostolic anointing, the church will not be able to progress into new things. Apostles need organization, but they cannot be hindered or controlled by it. **THE ORGANIZATION IS MADE FOR THE APOSTLE, NOT THE APOSTLE FOR THE ORGANIZATION.**

27. Senior leaders cannot become bogged down with too much administration. Some leaders wear themselves down with administration. They experience burnout because they do not recognize others with the administrative gifting, and they do not know how to delegate. Some churches expect pastors to be administrators. They expect the leaders to “be” and to “do” everything.

28. The church for years has been taught that the Great Commission is an evangelistic commission. It is, however, an apostolic commission. The commission was given to apostles, and it will take an apostolic anointing and strategy to fulfill it.

29. Most ministers live and die without entering into all the phases of their ministry.