

GOD'S PATTERN FOR CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION

As we co-operate with God in the building of His church, we are obligated to build according to His pattern. Jesus said He would build His church and the gates of hell would not be a victorious against it). We are building a church in our generation that is founded on the blueprint of the New Testament. All the ingredients of the early church are available to us today, through the power of the Holy Spirit, as building materials for our own local church.

GOD'S BLUEPRINT:

1. God is a _____

The words for "building" are used over 400 times in the Bible:

Old Testament-Hebrew word "banah" for build, to obtain children, to make, repair, set up.

New Testament-Greek word "oikodomea" means to be a house builder, construct, confirm, embolden, build up, edify. It is related to structure, architecture and confirmation.

2. God gives Specific instructions for Building

Genesis 6:14-16 (NIV)

So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and high. Make a roof for it and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks."

Hebrews 8:5 (NIV)

They serve a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven, This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

In partnering with God to build His church we need to be careful to build according to His pattern and blueprint, not ours. Not based on culture, Trends, popular opinions, the wisdom of the world (How does God want church to be done?)

3. God has a pattern for Building

Exodus 25:9-9 (NIV)

Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.

Exodus 25:40 (NIV)

See that you make them according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.

4. According to God's PATTERN, how should church work?

Acts 2:40-47 (CEV)

Peter told them many things as well. Then he said, "I beg you to save yourselves from what will happen to all these evil people." On that day about three thousand believed his message and were baptized. They spent their time learning from the apostles, and they were like family to each other. They also broke bread and prayed together. Everyone was amazed by the many miracles and wonders that the apostles worked. All the Lord's followers often met together, and they shared everything they had.

They would sell their property and possessions and give the money to whoever needed it. Day after day they met together in the temple. They broke bread and prayed together. Everyone was amazed by the many miracles and wonders that the apostles worked. All the Lord's followers often met together, and they shared everything they had. They would sell their property and possessions and give the money to whoever needed it. Day after day they met together in the temple. They broke bread and prayed in different homes and shared their food happily and freely, while praising God. Everyone liked them, and each day the Lord added to their group others who were being saved.

14 Dynamics of the First Church

The first church us a Biblical pattern for church today: a guide for our present day strategies and structures:

1. The Apostles _____: The authoritative teaching of the Word of God. (The teaching of the local church)
2. _____; the cultivating of relationships with a total inclusion of the whole body, every tribe and tongue.
3. The _____ of bread: Holy Communion
4. _____: All kinds of prayers and intercessions
5. _____: The awesome respect for Almighty God.
6. _____: The miraculous works of the Holy Spirit
7. _____: True unity regardless of colour, social standing or background
8. _____: The adventure of liberal giving
9. _____: Commitment to all corporate gatherings
10. _____: Harvest Groups and small groups
11. _____: The joy of the Christ-like lifestyle
12. _____: The spiritual impact of worship
13. _____: The influence of righteousness in our city.
14. _____: The making of disciples in the local church