



What's the Church all about?

Part 006 - Different ways to understand the purpose of the church

INTRODUCTION

A paradigm is simply a way of looking at something. It's a big word to describe something pretty simple. Everybody will look at the world and at the things we do in a certain way.

A paradigm provides rationale and explanation for how a particular system, process or object is and ought to be.

A. The Program-Centred Church Compared To The Great Commission Church

1. Program-Centred Church

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE 3 FOLD PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH?

Fig 1 - The Program - Centred Church



In this program- centred view, the church may resemble a secular training institution or small business in its structure and organisation.

2. The Great Commission Church

The biblical view of the Church, shown in Figure 2, places the Great Commission at the heart of the Church's purpose, and from it proceed programs and equipping ministries.

Fig 2 - The Great Commission Church

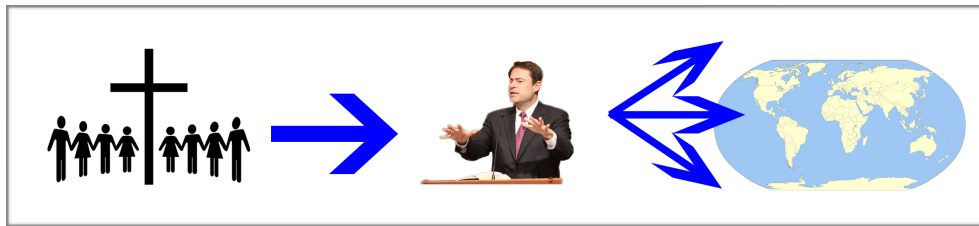


QUESTIONS:

1. **WHAT ARE THE RAMIFICATIONS FOR THESE TWO APPROACHES TO CHURCH STRUCTURES?**
2. **WHAT HAPPENS TO A CHURCH WHEN IT RECOGNISES THAT ITS 'REASON FOR BEING' IS TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL?**
3. **HOW CAN A CHURCH LOSE IT'S FOCUS ON THE GREAT COMMISSION AND BECOME MORE PROGRAM ORIENTATED?**

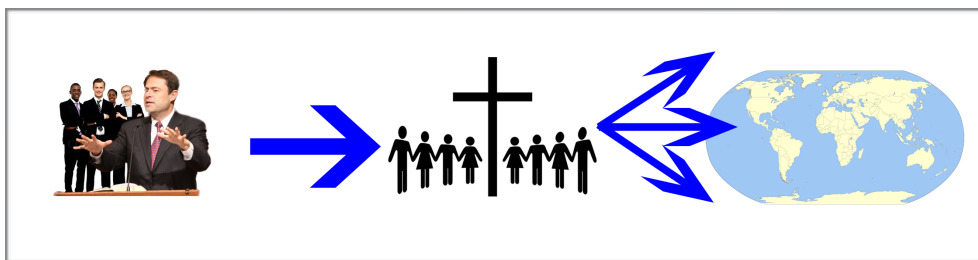
B. The Church as an 'Object of Ministry' Compared to the Church as an 'Agent for Mobilisation'

1. The Church as an Object of Ministry



Church	Pastor	World
<p>Members are called "laity." The laity supports the pastor to do the work of ministry. The laity show their support by attending services, tithing, and agreeing with the pastor's decisions and actions. The laity sees the primary purpose of the church as taking care of the needs of the church members. The laity do not see it as their responsibility to evangelize the lost.</p>	<p>The pastor is recognized as the professional minister. He is called "Father, "Reverend," or "Pastor." He is "The Minister." Usually in this system the pastor dominates the worship service since he views the members as "only laymen."</p>	<p>The pastor is the only one at the front lines of battle in the world. The pastor usually is not taken seriously by the world. He is "paid to do this," the people say. The world is not won to Christ, and the pastor wears himself out in trying to do the entire ministry.</p>

2. The Church As An Agent For Mobilisation



Leaders	Church	World
<p>The primary work of the leaders is to equip the church members so that they can minister in the world (Eph 4:11-16). Leaders must get to know the needs and spiritual gifts of their church members so that they can properly equip them to minister effectively.</p>	<p>The laity are trained by the leadership to be "ministers." Therefore, a church with 100 members should expect to have 100 ministers (not pastors). Church members are released to use their spiritual gifts to minister to one another and to evangelise the lost. Penetration of the world with the Gospel is the primary responsibility of the church members. The church leadership provides the equipping for the members to take up this responsibility.</p>	<p>The world is where the members live. Church members are full-time ministers where they live and work. All levels of society are being penetrated with the Gospel (Mt 28:19-20).</p>

QUESTIONS:

- 1. WHY SHOULD THE CHURCH BE A FORCE AND NOT JUST A FIELD?**
- 2. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF LEADERSHIP IN A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH?**
- 3. HOW DOES THIS SECOND MODEL MAKE THE CHURCH MORE EFFECTIVE?**
- 4. HOW HAS LOOKING AT THIS TOPIC MADE YOU CHANGE THE WAY YOU LOOK AT THE PURPOSE OF OUR CHURCH.**