

KEYS FOR THRIVING IN TIMES OF TRANSITION

Ephesians 2: 19-22

¹⁹ Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

²⁰ And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

²¹ In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

²² In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

INTRODUCTION: TRANSITIONS ARE TOUGH!

- They come with a lot of pain and adjustment.
- But, without transitions there could be no growth, no progress!

If we are going to move into this new Apostolic Reformation, we must be willing to make transitions and embrace the spirit of transition!

PROPOSITION: HERE ARE THREE KEYS FOR THRIVING IN TRANSITIONAL TIMES.

“3 R’S”

R = RECOGNIZE

R = REMEMBER

R = RELEASE

KEY # 1 = RECOGNIZE

I. THE NECESSITY OF TRANSITION.

A. We are always making transitions!

- We transition from
 - childhood to adulthood...
 - single to married...
 - childless to parents...
(most difficult task of all)
 - one job to another...
 - one city to another.

As the Apostolic Reformation grows and the five-fold ministry is restored to its rightful place in church, in workplace, transitions will be the order of the day!

B. We must remember that the Church has drifted away from Biblical government for 1900 years.

- It will take more than a single generation to restore it fully.

- So a major characteristic of the will of God for the foreseeable future is **TRANSITION!**

KEY #2 = REMEMBER

II. THE FOUNDATION FOR TRANSITION.

A. A key passage for the church today is: Ephesians 2: 19-22

“(We are) fellow citizens (with) the saints, and of the household of God and we are built upon the foundation (*themelios*) of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

1. Note that it is clear that Jesus is not the foundation of the household of God; the apostles and prophets are!

- Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone – not the foundation.

ÁKROGONIAÍOS

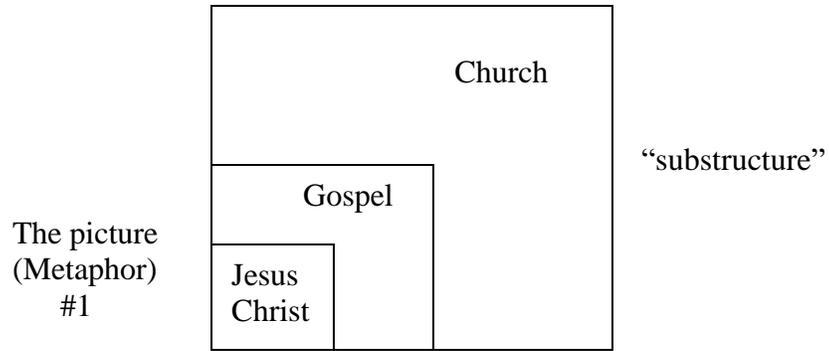
• *akron* = extreme
end

• *gonia* = angle
corner

The Cornerstone determines everything about the building.

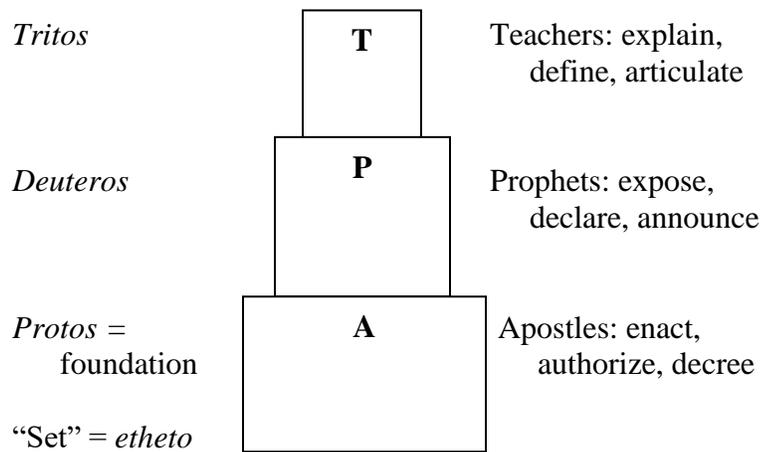
- depth and height of building
- angle and position
- size and shape

- In I Cor. 3:10-11 – Paul calls his preaching of Jesus Christ “The Foundation” (*themelios*) laid by God. He does not say that Jesus Christ is the Foundation but the preaching of Jesus Christ = Foundation.



- But here the metaphor (picture) is different – more sophisticated and developed. “KEY”

See 1 Corinthians 12:28



2. R.C.H. Lenski says of this passage:

“In Ephesians the foundation consists of the apostles and prophets

– not their person...

– not their faith...

– but their office / function

3. Lenski also says that:

“The foundation is the Old Testament Prophets and New Testament Apostles.” It is not New Testament Apostles and Prophets.

Moses – 1200 B.C.
Samuel – 1000 B.C.
Elijah – 800 B.C.
Elisha – 800 B.C.
Isaiah – 700 B.C.
Jeremiah – 600 B.C.
Ezekiel – 575 B.C.
Daniel – 550 B.C.
Malachi – 400 B.C.

“...the apostles are here placed on the same level with the Old Testament prophets....The Twelve and Paul belong in the same class with Moses, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah.”

4. Luke 6:14

Jesus names the Apostles – “coined the word”. He chose 12 whom He onomazo “apostles.”

B. So – the Foundation for transitions is the strong Gospel lived and proclaimed by apostolic men of God throughout the ages!

- Apostolic men and women – not dogmas...not denominations...who faithfully preach/teach THE WORD OF GOD ARE STILL THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH!

- “The preached Word of God!”

- Paul said:
 - God laid Jesus Christ as the cornerstone...the substructure
 - I laid the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the Foundation...
 - Others have built on this Apostolic foundation as prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.

Key # 1 = Recognize the necessity of transition.

Key # 2 = Recognize the foundation of transition.

KEY #3 = RELEASE THE DYNAMICS OF TRANSITION

Rubber meets the road—from philosophy to practices.

III. FOUR DYNAMICS OF SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION.

These are “4 D’s”:

- Common sense “tools” for healthy transitions.
- Practical steps of successful transition to the Apostolic.

DYNAMIC #1: DEVELOP

- A. Develop Apostolic/Supporting Relationships.

1. Seek out and know true apostles.
2. Have an understanding of:
 - the heart of apostles. Governmental – order
 - the mind of apostles Global – world, region, city
 - the motivation of apostles. Gut Level not emotional (pastor) . . . intellectual (teacher) . . . spiritual (prophet) - Total
3. Read apostolic literature and attend apostolic conferences.
 - Not Apostle’s job to seek you . . . You seek him!!!
 - “Son’s choose Father for adoption; Father’s accept Sons.!”

DYNAMIC #2: DESIRE

B. Desire Apostolic/Spiritual Fathering.

1. Pray for God to bring a true apostolic father into your life for mentoring, modeling and accountability.
2.

<p>“All leaders of ministries need an accountable relationship with a primary apostle.”</p>

3. Some call this “Covering.”

- It is a 4-fold relationship for
 - Learning
 - Listening
 - Lifting
 - Loving – set his love upon me . . .

DYNAMIC #3: DETERMINE

C. Determine to Teach Apostolic Structure and Principles to Your Church/Followers.

1. Be willing to change your paradigms.
 - Preach apostolic values before you embrace apostolic structure.
 - A change of structure without a strong understanding of apostolic values and principles can produce resistance and create dissension!
2. Bring in strong apostolic voices and teams to impart apostolic understanding and anointing to your leaders and people.

DYNAMIC #4: DISCOVER

D. Discover Remedies For The Pains That Come With Apostolic Transitions.

1. True transition will always produce some pain.
2. Not everyone in your church/ministry will be comfortable with the new wineskin of the apostolic reformation.

4 Responses to Apostles:

- Some will forsake . . . leave/fracture [“old wineskin” – sweet, intoxicates, innervates, activates, invigorates]
- Some will fight . . . attack/resist [7 last words . . . “We have always done it this way!”]
- Some will fade . . . dwindle/die
- Most will find 3 things . . . Answers = to troublesome questions

Anointing = Power – *dunimus*
 “EPITA”

Aim = Purpose/Destiny

3. Finally, there are three remedies to reduce transitional pains.
 - a. Be confident of your calling and direction.
 - b. Be connected to your own apostolic leadership/fellowship.
 - c. Be clear in your understanding of the stages of your transition and be able to guide people through them.

CONCLUSION: WELL, THERE IT IS!

“THREE KEYS FOR THRIVING IN TIMES OF TRANSITION” (3 R’S)

KEY # 1 = RECOGNIZE THE NECESSITY OF TRANSITION.

- Without healthy transitions we will die.
- It took us 1900 years to get here; it will take some time to get back to Biblical, apostolic government.

KEY # 2 = REMEMBER THE FOUNDATION FOR TRANSITION.

- Word – Preaching apostles have always been the foundation of the Church.

KEY # 3 = RELEASE THE DYNAMICS OF TRANSITION.

FOUR DYNAMICS (“4 D’s”)

- Develop apostolic and prophetic relationship.
- Desire apostolic spiritual fathering.
- Determine to teach apostolic principles and structure.
- Discover remedies for the inevitable pains of transition.

THREE REMEDIES (“3 C’s”)

- Be Confident of your calling/direction.
- Be Connected to your apostolic leadership.
- Be Clear of the stages of transition.

APPLICATION:

- Where are you in this “Time of Transition?”

- TRANSITIONS ARE TOUGH!
 - It is easy to drop the baton in these times and lose the whole race.
 - Be careful . . . Be sensitive to God and people.
 - Be kind even to those who oppose you...
 - Be wise . . .

- USE THESE “3 KEYS”
 1. Recognize the necessity of transition.
 2. Remember the foundation of transition.
 3. Release the dynamics of transition.
 - Develop apostolic relationships
 - Desire apostolic fathering
 - Determine to teach apostolic • principles • structure
 - Discover remedies for the pain
 - Be Confident of your call/direction.
 - Be Connected to your leadership.
 - Be Clear about stages of transition.