

God's Strategy For Expanding Christ's Kingdom on Earth - The Spiritual Family!

1. God is a Father, Son, and Spirit- three Persons as One God. As a Father, Son, and Spirit, God must build His kingdom according to Who He is – A Family. Therefore, God builds His kingdom relationally through covenant (united as one) families, natural and spiritual.
2. God's spiritual family, also known as the Church, Body of Christ, Bride of Christ, is the highest expression of God's "skin" on earth. In other words, spiritual family, which is an eternal reality is an even higher point of reference than natural family. For example, natural marriage between husband and wife is a living example of Christ as the Bridegroom and the Church as the Bride. (Eph. 5:22-33)
3. Obviously, God wants the natural family to be an important context for shaping lives into Christ's image. God has also provided the spiritual family, connected by the blood of Jesus, the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit to be the environment that "brings many sons to glory". (Heb. 2:10)
4. When God does anything, He starts with the end in Mind. The Big Vision initiates and informs the "smaller" purposes/visions necessary to achieve the Big Vision. God's big vision is to have the entire earth populated only with His Family, sons of God in covenant unity & love, who are bringing His rule to the planet in every area of life (agriculture, business, education, arts, media, social services, etc). You might call this "Family-Kingdom" enterprise, "Almighty & Sons" and everyone who is in Christ and in Christ's Body has an important responsibility to BOTH connect in intimate relationships (with God and church family) AND to make kingdom impact. How we relate to our spiritual family, and how we carry out our kingdom responsibilities will determine the degree of our eternal reward and the scope of our eternal responsibilities. Faithful in little results in promotion to big.
5. The Big Family vision could be called the one "Tribe"...or the one "Family"...or the one "Church"...capital "T"...capital "F"...capital "C". (Heb. 7:13; Eph. 3:14; Col.1:18; Eph. 5:23)
6. For individuals to actually connect intimately, and organically in relationships for Christ's Life to get transferred, God forms smaller "tribes" so that people are able to connect with real live "skin" and unify around real kingdom advancing mission. In other words, Family isn't just a nice idea in God's Mind. It is to be a tangible reality now for every son of God. God raises up trans-local covenant families we like to call "tribes" (little "t") for the purpose of intimate love and kingdom impact across large geographic areas. (see document "Apostolic Tribes")
7. Trans-local "tribes" (little "t") are the here and now way God is advancing His kingdom on earth. They are never to have an elite spirit, as though one is more important than the other. That is carnal thinking. (1Cor. 1:10-17) Though we are not to compare ourselves or live with a proud independence from the whole Family of God, neither are we to minimize God's strategy for connecting us into a legitimate trans-local (more than one location) spiritual family (i.e. "tribe"). After Paul confronted the carnally minded Corinthian church for their elite spirit, he went on to identify himself as their spiritual father and the church as his spiritual family. (1 Cor. 4:14-21, 9:1-6; 2 Cor. 3:2, 6:11-13) Nearly every Epistle in the New Testament makes some familial reference like sonship, sons, brothers, sisters, children, spiritual family, fathering, etc. (Ro.1:11-13; Eph. 6:21-24; Phil. 2:19-30)
8. What is a trans-local spiritual "tribe"? It is a family of "sons of God" who are connected in mind, heart, and life across large geographic space with common core values, vision, culture, and general strategies led by five-fold ministries: apostles, prophets, teachers, pastors, evangelists.

The central connection is Christ, unity around the most important foundations in the kingdom of God, and a sovereign joining by the Person of the Holy Spirit. Five-fold ministry leaders must reveal Christ and the Father-heart of God in order to create and sustain a trans-local church-planting family. (see document entitled "Apostolic Tribes")

9. The bigger vision of spiritual family, i.e. "tribes", initiates and contextualizes the smaller church families. Just like the whole human body contextualizes, defines, and utilizes the smaller parts of the body, so the larger "tribe" helps to create, sustain, and extend the smaller expressions of family, like local churches (20-5000+), Missional Kingdom Families (10-12 people), DNA Groups (2-3 people). Here is how the big relates to the little:

The One Tribe

Tribes (Unlimited numbers & International Family)

Local Churches (20-5000+ family members)

Missional Kingdom Families (10-12 family members on mission)

DNA Groups (2-3 family members on mission)

Individual with Christ

10. When God wants to do something "little" (like having Christ come inside one person to make them a son of God), He starts with something "big" (sending His Son to earth, dying our death, resurrection, ascension and release of the Holy Spirit). It is the big (like Christ, Christ's Family, and Christ's Kingdom) that creates, contextualizes, sustains and extends the little (like one born again believer, one DNA Group, One MKF, one local church, one tribe). However, when God wants to do something big, He starts the big in a little way. In fact, it looks so little, so concealed, that it takes humility, faith, and revelation to "see" it. A big vision starts with a little and obscure "seed". Examples: a.) Adam & Eve, b.) Abraham & Sarah, c.) Joseph, d.) David, e.) Jesus, f.) Disciples, g.) Early Church, h.) Apostle Paul. Mt. 13:31

A. When God starts something big, he selects a spiritual father. Abraham, David, Jesus, Paul, etc.

B. There is a huge and difficult learning curve for spiritual fathers who will be entrusted with the lives of others. Even Christ learned obedience through the things he suffered. (Heb. 2:18, 5:8)

11. The bigger "tribe" starts (plants) and/or adopts local churches and Missional Kingdom Families (MKF's). The bigger "tribe" also protects, feeds (waters), supports, and extends the smaller family entities. In other words, the big serves the little. However, the smaller local churches and MKF's serve the bigger "tribe" by contributing leaders, finances, prayer, and partnership for new church plants and missionary endeavors. The relationship between the "big" and the "little" is a symbiotic, interconnected partnership, not codependent. The big serves the little and the little serves the big.

12. Missional Kingdom Families Defined:

Missional Kingdom Families are small family-communities of Christ-followers who have connected their lives together for the purpose of loving God and reaching others with the gospel. An MKF is centered around the Person and Purpose of Jesus Christ, and led by qualified leaders. Each person is helped to be a true disciple of Christ in the 5 C's: Christ, Community, Character, Calling, and Competence. All MKF's are inter-connected with other MKF's and a part of a local congregation led by biblical elders. Each local congregation is a part of a family-of-churches we call an "apostolic tribe" under the Lordship of Christ and led by five-fold ministry teams made up of apostles, prophets, teachers, evangelists, and pastors.

Missional Kingdom Families are a spiritual family – people connected covenantally heart-to-heart around Christ in order to advance His kingdom. I Cor. 4:15-17; Eph. 3:14; 1 Cor. 16:19

- Missional Kingdom Families are a group of friends unified around Christ's love and mission. Mt. 11:19; Jn. 15:12-17
- Missional Kingdom Families are a healing community that prays for the sick, counsels the confused, carries out inner healing, sets people free from curses and demonic bondage, and creates such an atmosphere of acceptance and love that rejection and insecurities are displaced automatically over time. James 5:16; Matt. 10:1,8
- Missional Kingdom Families are a training and equipping center, a safe setting for people to practice leadership, management, preaching, teaching, creative ministry, spiritual gifts, and all forms of servanthood. Matt. 28:18-20
- Missional Kingdom Families are a missionary team and spiritual army – a flexible, spontaneous, organized platoon capable of reaching those who do not follow Christ and are not in a spiritual family. They are dedicated to seeking and saving the lost, delivering people from demonic bondage, doing justice, and serving youth, poor, widow, orphan, and alien. Lk. 19:10; Eph. 6:10-18
- Missional Kingdom Families are a lifestyle of deep, intentional, meaningful relationships that connect any time and place with an ultimate goal to reach lost people, and transform communities through Christ and the kingdom of God. Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-35.

13. DNA Groups Defined:

A DNA Group is a small gender specific (men with men, women with women) gathering of 2 to 4 disciples of Christ who are helping each other become transformed into Christ's likeness, and advance Christ's kingdom in every area of life. Utilizing the power of God's Word (Bible), God's Spirit, and God's Family, a DNA Group emphasizes the three major practices of a disciple: 1.) **Abiding** relationally with Christ (prayer), 2.) **Hearing** God's Word and Spirit, 3.) **Obeying** God's Word and Spirit. Each person will help the others to abide with Christ, hear His voice, and obey God's Word in the two main areas of the Kingdom of God: 1.) **Covenant Relationships** ("covenant" means high quality relational unity and oneness), 2.) **Kingdom Responsibilities** (fulfilling the original dominion mandate by doing God's will, God's way, by God's Spirit, for God's glory (Gen.1-3). DNA Groups are not a religious program. They are a way of life. When two, three, or four sincere believers come together for the purpose of helping one another become like Christ and advance His kingdom, supernatural transformation will occur. Ro. 8:29; 1 Cor. 15:48-49; Luke 10:1-24; Matt. 6:33, 10:7-8

There are five purposes for a DNA Group: 1.) to help each other love, follow, and obey Jesus Christ, 2.) to read and apply the Word of God to our everyday lives, 3.) to pray for those who do not have Christ living in them as Lord and/or who are not in a biblical church, i.e. healthy spiritual family, 4.) to build loving relationships with those who are not in Christ for the purpose of sharing the good news of the kingdom of God in word and deed, 5.) to follow-up and disciple those who have just come to Christ. A small committed group of two to three people has a much better chance of digging into the deep root issues that are blocking personal transformation. In the safety of unconditional love, trust, and confidentiality, people can truly open their hearts. They are more apt to let their "inner conversation" and personal issues come into the light. In the light and love of Father's Spirit and Father's family, we can fight for one another's transformation into Christ's likeness. 1 John 1:1-7

DNA Groups meet at least once a week to help each member become like Christ, love God, share the gospel, advance Christ's kingdom, and make disciples that make disciples. **Discipleship, Nurture, Apostolic Mission** (see DNA Group Booklet)