

## **Apostolic Tribes (Translocal Spiritual Families/Armies): God's Strategy To Defeat Satan & Bring All Things Under Christ**

*He made known to the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ....to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. Eph. 1:10*

*The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." Psalm 110:1*

*You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ himself as the chief cornerstone. Eph. 2:19-20*

*It was he who gave some to apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up **until** we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Eph. 4:11-13*

*God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third .I Cor. 12:28*

*The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. I Jn.3:8*

**Introduction:** A cosmic spiritual war is raging! Satan is attempting to resist the spread of God's glory across the earth and keep all life from coming under the Lordship of Christ. God is restoring Biblical Christianity in this age in order to defeat His enemy and bring about His ultimate intentions. God is changing the understanding and expression of Christianity in this generation back to its original form. This means a restoration of all the ministries and gifts mentioned in the Word such as apostles and prophets. Under the leadership of these spiritual parents/soldiers, extended spiritual families/armies will be equipped and mobilized to powerfully expand the kingdom of God into every sphere of life. God only uses a paradigm, context, or wineskin which reveals who He is and is consistent with His nature – a Father and Son. Thus, Father builds His kingdom relationally in the context of natural and spiritual family. The church must be changed at the most foundational levels back into a true covenant family and army. This is a much more dramatic paradigm shift than most of us can imagine, and it will take many years of hard work and spiritual warfare to experience this reality.

The Biblical pattern for church planting is "apostolic teams" (Acts 13:2-3,13; I Cor. 1:1; II Cor. 1:1;Gal. 1:1-2,2:8-10;Col.1:1;I Tim.1:1-2;Titus 1:1,4). Apostolic teams are lead by spiritual fathers and mothers who raise up an extended spiritual family of sons and daughters. The spiritual parents are responsible for receiving the values, vision, mission and general strategies from Father and communicating and modeling them to the family members. Generational transfer of God's love and ways through discipleship within natural and spiritual families is how Father chooses to expand His kingdom. The family is Father's chosen paradigm and context for His life and love to be exchanged. These translocal spiritual families also function as spiritual armies which powerfully advance the kingdom of God in every sphere of life (personal, natural family, market place, civil government, etc.). God sovereignly joins all His children into a natural and/or spiritual family in order to reveal and advance the kingdom of God in tangible ways (through "skin"). These covenantally connected sons and daughters will model kingdom love by enjoying relational intimacy. They will help to reveal the relationship of The Father and The Son (The First Family) through spiritual family. And they will forcefully advance the kingdom with the efficiency of a modern army. Many people have never experienced life and

love within a healthy natural or spiritual family. This deprivation will require significant healing and discipleship. Others need additional teaching and coaching to help them move from good family life to excellent. Everyone, no matter their background, has a need to be taught how to communicate and behave in Biblically healthy and positive ways. Describing and contrasting the attitudes and actions of those who are true spiritual fathers, mothers, sons and daughters with those who are connected programmatically, institutionally, politically, religiously, or just around purpose will help us all move toward the incredibly rich life Christ's blood has purchased. We do not want to live beneath the promises of God or fall short of His glory. True healthy apostolic spiritual families are being raised up by our Father. Every Christian needs to find their "tribe" and enthusiastically contribute to the quality of loving relationships and the successful achievement of its vision. Let us all strive to enter this reality called the "unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace"( Eph. 4:3) and experience "loving each other deeply from the heart (I Pet.1:22)."

- I. The word "salvation" in the scriptures is a relational term. It means to be reconnected and restored back into relationship with our Father in heaven and adopted into his Family. Biblical salvation is both "vertical" (i.e. relationally reconnected to Father through Son Christ) and horizontal (i.e. placed in the spiritual family composed of created people). All Christians are expected to walk out their spiritual lives in a specific spiritual family.
  
- II. The Bible teaches that all believers (those who place their trust in Christ for salvation and obey Him as Lord) are adopted into the family of God through the shed blood and sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. However, the Bible also teaches that every believer is to walk out the reality of their salvation in the context of an identifiable spiritual family with legitimate church government. The Family "big F" speaks of the whole and universal body of Christ on earth and in heaven. The family "little f" are the real live human beings that God calls us to experience covenant relationships with.
  - A. Be concerned and cautious with those who identify themselves as members of the universal family of God ("big F" Family) and will not connect, commit, and submit to a specific spiritual family ("little f family"). This may initially sound noble and "spiritual" but is, in fact, a smoke screen and a deception concealing deeper issues. Unwillingness to a.) covenantally connect at the heart in a specific spiritual family, b.) commit long term to: the values, vision, mission, strategies, leaders and family members through time, energy, tithe, affections, talents, gifts c.) not coming into accountability and submission, could be evidence of: 1.) not truly saved, 2.) not under the Lordship of Christ revealed in unwillingness to connect righteously to His Body, 3.) rebellion or compromise 4.) fear and/or unbelief, 6.) "mommy or daddy" wounds from the past manifesting in self-protection, 5.) lack of understanding God's ways, 6.) spirit of control, manipulation, pride, selfish ambition.

- B. A specific little “f” spiritual family has Biblical government and is led by apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, elders, and deacons. Accountability of top leadership is always welcome by the top leadership.
- III. Heavenly Father wants all His children to prosper and receive the full rights, privileges, and blessings that Christ’s blood has purchased. However, he requires that we receive and experience these blessings on His terms, according to His ways. As a Father and Son, God “invented” the natural and spiritual family as the context for love, discipleship, empowerment, blessings, wealth, success, callings, destinies, the discovery and contribution of spiritual gifts and talents, promotion and more. Anyone attempting to experience God’s will and blessings outside of God’s ways (natural and spiritual family) will not only miss His promises but actually experience His resistance.
- IV. God’s primary way to mediate His grace is through people. Eph. 6:1-3; I Pet. 5:5-6; Ro. 1:11
- V. The way we relate to people, especially natural and spiritual family and those in authority, indicates the depth and health of our relationship with God. I Jn. I Pet. 3:7.
- VI. Due to broken covenants, unfulfilled promises, moral failure, and abusive leadership styles, the credibility of natural and spiritual parents, church leaders, leaders in business and civil government is at an all time low. This has produced serious distrust and skepticism towards authority. The temptation for most people is to diminish or even eliminate the necessity and role of parents/leaders. There are subtle ways that we can minimize the place natural and spiritual parents are to have in our lives. We can appear open and connected at the heart, while maintaining walls, self-protection, independence, self-reliance. People think, “If I can’t rely on or trust parents/leaders, I can’t trust anyone.” “I’ll just trust myself and take matters into my own hands.” The equation becomes, it is better to have no leadership than bad leadership. This ultimately leads to isolation, independence, and anarchy and leaves people depleted and ineffective.
  - A. One of the results of the break down of spiritual parenting is the formation of religious institutions run by hirelings. Church organizations can easily become institutional orphanages run by program directors, social workers, and hired staff.
- VII. The answer to bad leadership is not any leadership. It is recovering healthy spiritual parents and family.
- VIII. A healthy spiritual father or mother has the following attributes.
  - A. The word “father” in Hebrew means “source”. Father in heaven delegates authority and responsibility to natural and spiritual parents to be conduits of His life. In that sense, they are a source for the Source. Spiritual parenting is all about bringing forth life, training that life, sustaining life, protecting life, etc. It involves profound self-sacrifice in order to help another mature and fulfill their destiny. Parents exist to serve offspring, not the other way around. A true parent will always be a resource of “life” to others. As a result, the positive impact (fruit) from their lives will be evident every where.
  - B. Spiritual fathers are the communicators and guardians of Biblical kingdom values. They model and train on the basis of character and values, and they create mechanisms for those values to be reinforced, instituted, and guarded.
  - C. Spiritual fathers are the communicators of God-inspired faith vision.

- D. Spiritual fathers birth and raise spiritual families, through new births and “spiritual adoptions”.
  - E. Spiritual fathers create a context and setting for the family members to be trained and disciplined. Family members are encouraged to grow to their maximum potential.
  - F. Spiritual fathers create a culture and atmosphere for people to be loved, encouraged, valued, and utilized.
  - G. Spiritual fathers create and enforce boundaries. They facilitate church discipline in love.
  - H. Spiritual fathers cover their families in prayer.
  - I. Spiritual fathers impart blessings, spiritual gifts, and help gather resources for the family vision.
  - J. Spiritual fathers model godliness, and kingdom lifestyle.
  - K. Spiritual fathers rally and motivate their family to love and serve children, youth, poor, widows, orphans, aliens, and the unreached in the nations. They call the family to loose its life for those outside itself in order to gain its life.
  - L. Spiritual fathers train and model covenant life. They are not just professional ministers, hired church workers, who maintain a pastoral persona and are moving from church to church to expand their careers.
  - M. Spiritual fathers create an atmosphere of love, acceptance, forgiveness, mercy, kindness, and fun.
  - N. Spiritual fathers are accountable to other spiritual fathers. They are easily corrected, admit their sin, failures, and weaknesses, and work hard to improve themselves for the sake of the family.
  - O. Apostolic fathers will not be able to have a direct relationship with everyone in the “tribe” they lead due to the natural limitations of space and time. However, their “fathering” can be experienced indirectly through the leaders they raise up, the vision they cast, the values they teach and sustain, the ministries they launch, the loving atmosphere their leadership produces, etc.
- IX. It is critical to understand what constitutes a true healthy spiritual family. Just because a group calls themselves a church or spiritual family does not mean it is one.
- A. A true spiritual family is connected at the heart and mind covenantally. This means that the basis of their relationships is the cross of Christ, acceptance, love, forgiveness, mercy, and relationships based on “being” versus “doing/performance”. They do not judge or reject one another based on performance. Relationships involve deep commitment, sacrifice, and care. Conflicts are resolved through up front communication, Biblical due process, forgiveness, reconciliation, and mercy. Gossip and slander are unacceptable forms of communication. And people are encouraged to influence the group through appeal versus political power moves.
  - B. A true spiritual family has a clear set of values, a vision and mission, strategies, and goals that come from God and delivered through the point leader. All the members own the same values, vision, and mission as the point leader and thus enjoy great unity and oneness.
  - C. A true spiritual family has identifiable “spiritual parents” (government) who have accepted the responsibility of giving account for the souls of the members of the family. These “spiritual parents/leaders” are committed long term to the people

because of calling and sovereign joining, not because of a pay check, a position, a certain level of power and authority. These “spiritual parents” lead by example, do not try to influence through control or manipulation, are not abusive or dominating.

- D. A true family has identifiable membership.
  - E. A true spiritual family has created an atmosphere and opportunity for all its members to grow in their character, gifts, callings, and responsibilities. They have placed no “ceiling” of growth on its members.
  - F. A true spiritual family exercises spiritual discipline within Biblical guidelines.
  - G. A true spiritual family encourages people to celebrate their own unique personality, temperament, and interests. They do not try to clone their members to be like a few of the leaders. They encourage their members to think for themselves, to own what is in their hearts. They do not try to force or coerce people to certain attitudes and actions. People can be themselves, yet are being encouraged to be their “best” self through Christ.
  - H. A true spiritual family laughs and plays together.
  - I. A true spiritual family has created a culture of affection, safety, transparency, and trust.
  - J. A true family encourages people to express their differing opinions and ideas because it values the notion of total “ownership”.
  - K. A true family has “all things in common” which means it voluntarily makes its time and resources available to one another.
  - L. A true spiritual family reproduces new “babies” and has a means to raise those new believers into mature Christians.
  - M. A true family is concerned about the well-being of the whole person – their individual body, soul, and spirit, their natural family, their spiritual family, their job, their government.
  - N. A true healthy spiritual family gets feedback, coaching, and correction from leaders outside itself. It refuses to be ingrown, isolated, or to cultivate an elite, superior attitude.
  - O. A true healthy spiritual family feels a responsibility and call to youth, poor, and the unreached in the nations. They will “exist” for something and someone outside itself. It will lose its life in order to gain it.
  - P. A true healthy spiritual family avoids all forms of dysfunctional behavior like co-dependency, insecurities, viewing and connecting to people and community as the source of life instead of drawing on God as the Source.
  - Q. A true spiritual family pools and sacrifices its money and resources through tithes and offerings in order to worship God and achieve its mission.
- IX. What is an apostolic Father?
- A. Apostles are “sent ones”. They have a commission from the Trinity to expand the Kingdom of God by planting churches and providing ongoing support, accountability, and networking for the churches they plant or adopt. “Apostle” is a military term. The King delegates his authority to another, commissions and sends him out to expand the kingdom.
  - B. Seven demands that define apostles. (taken from David Cannistraci outline)
    - 1. Apostles must have a definite call from God. This should be confirmed by the prophetic.
    - 2. Apostles are required to have special intimacy with Christ (I Corin. 9:1).

3. Apostles must qualify as elders (I Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:1-4).
  4. Apostles must qualify as five-fold ministers (Eph. 4:11-17) who equip people for the work of ministry.
  5. Apostles must be confirmed and recognized by peers (Gal. 2:9; Acts 13:1-3). They are not self proclaimed, but “sent out” by credible leaders.
  6. Apostles must have specific fruit (I Corin. 9:1-2).
  7. Apostles must maintain their ministry by submission to Christ (Acts 1:25). Divine and human accountability structures.
- C. Two aspects of Apostolic Ministry: Planting & Watering (I Corin. 3:5-9).
- D. Seven Responsibilities of an Apostle
1. Planting Churches (Acts 13:4 - 14:26).
  2. Overseeing and strengthening churches ( II Corin. 11:28).
  3. Develop leaders through spiritual fathering (II Tim. 2:22).
  4. Ordaining Ministries (Titus 1:5; Acts 6:1-6).
  5. Supervising and coordinating ministry (Acts 16:1-4; Phil. 2:19-20; Col. 4:7-12).
  6. Managing Crisis (Acts 4:24-37; 11:29-30).
  7. Networking with other ministries (Acts 15).
- E. Apostolic character.
1. Humility: apostles saw themselves as slaves of Christ (Rom. 1:1; James 1:1; I Pet.1:1; Rev.1:1).
  2. Apostles glorify God and never themselves (I Corin. 9:16; Acts 3:12; 14:11-15; I Thessal. 2:6).
  3. Apostles understand their need to submit (I Corin. 16:12).
- F. Apostles have the top governmental authority over the churches they plant or adopt. (II Corin. 10:8- 18; I Corin. 12:28).
1. Apostles have vision and are most responsible for stewarding the “vision of the translocal spiritual family”. ( II Corin. 12:1)
  2. Apostles establish “divine order” in all spheres of life.
- G. Apostles are spiritual fathers who encourage their spiritual family to connect covenantally from the heart. I Cor. 4:15-17; Phil 1:8; I Thess. 2:7-8
- X. Apostles are for today.
- A. The original 12 pre-ascension Apostles have a unique place in church history. They were given authority to form the canon of New Testament scripture. They will rule perennially.
- B. Post ascension apostle’s are “gifts” given by Christ to extend His government and bring divine order in all spheres of life.
- “The Biblical evidence strongly supports the continuity of the gift of apostle. The original twelve apostles have a unique place in Christian history and they will be commemorated permanently in the New Jerusalem (see Rev. 21:14), but they were not the only apostles. I Corin. 15 mentions that after the resurrection Jesus appeared to “the twelve” and then also to “all the apostles,” indicating that there were apostles other than the twelve (I Corin. 15:5,7). Furthermore, the warnings against “false apostles” would be nonsense if apostles were limited to the twelve (II Corin. 11:13, Rev. 2:2). C. Peter Wagner
1. Examples of apostles mentioned in scripture other than the 12 & Paul: Silas, Timothy (I Thess. 1:1, 2:6-7), Andronicus and Junias (Ro. 16:7)

- C. Apostles are to exist and function “until” the church reaches unity and maturity. Ephesians 4:12.
- D. The Devil’s primary attack was leveled against apostles. “Strike the shepherd and the sheep will scatter” (Zech. 13:7). In early church history, the gift of apostle was the first to be lost. The apostle is the last governmental gift to be restored. This is the most exciting development in 1500 years of church history. **We will not have New Testament Christianity with out valid Apostolic Fathers!**
  - 2. Apostle’s are at the point of the spiritual battle and thus are the first target in spiritual warfare. (see Acts 16:16; 19:23-40).

- XI. How the modern day apostle gets called and released.
  - a. He receives a specific call from Jesus by way of personal revelation. He sees and hears the Lord. Acts 9:4-7
  - b. The prophetic ministry confirms this calling. Acts 9:10-19; 13:1-3
  - c. The character of Christ is built into their lives. Visible in personal, family, work, and church life.
  - d. They begin carrying out apostolic ministry with obvious fruit. They make disciples, cast vision, train and enforce values, plant churches, impart gifts, raise up leaders, etc.
  - e. Other mature ministries recognize and affirm their calling and gifting.
  - f. They stay accountable to seasoned and established ministries.
  - g. Signs, wonders, miracles and favor from God accompanies their lives and ministries.
  - h. Significant spiritual warfare and suffering are attached to their lives.

XII. The vision, values, mission, promises, anointing that is given to the point apostle comes onto all those who are placed in his spiritual family. Romans 1:1-5; Ro. 16:20-24 The same calling to the gentiles which came to Paul was extended to his apostolic team.

8.) They have generational vision (spiritually and naturally)

- a. They want to share life with fathers together down to third and fourth generation.
- b. They are willing to sow life into training next generation of leaders vs. pursuing their own glory.

9.) They bond new and weak people to the whole family.

10.) They focus on the welfare of the people.

- a. Conversation and time involvements reflect caring for the whole flock.

11.) They can be secure to accept and welcome confrontation and change (Heb.12:1-15).

- a. They respond to discipline.
- b. Their trust is obvious to see.

12. They have “puppy feet” (i.e. you can see their potential for growth).

13. Time, energy, finances, gifts, talents, and affections are generously given to further the kingdom purpose. This is due to a full and grateful heart. Out of the heart come the issues of life...

14. Because of a keen sense of “ownership” doesn’t hesitate to carry out small, mundane, or “dirty” jobs when no one is noticing. Like cleaning the buildings or taking out the trash.

8.) They are self focused. “My ministry” vs. kids/grandkids in the spirit.

- a. Talks about finding his own truth and discovering their own ministry and calling.
- b. Always wants “pay offs” and to pick and choose involvement.
- c. Won’t produce Isaac and Jacob.

9.) They bond new and weak people to themselves.

10.) Unfathered people tend to focus on appearance: meetings, numbers, events, success, and “who I know”.

- a. The leaven of the Phisees is “to be seen of men...” (Matt. 6)
- b. Negative manifestation: a critical spirit.

11.) Confrontation and correction offends.

- a. Reveals level of mistrust
- b. Independent contractors – outside ministries. Put steel walls around who you let them touch.

12. Already appears to have matured by themselves and has no need of parental impute.  
a. Agenda: what he/she will add to you vs. what you can add to them.

13. Resources are given but conservatively and not necessarily cheerfully.

14. Avoids the dirty, hard, and hidden jobs.

## **Contrasts between a serving son/daughter in an apostolic tribe and a slave/hireling/organizationally connected person who serves:**

### **The Heart of a Son/Daughter....**

- 1.) They have identified their spiritual fathers and their family. They hold their spiritual father's heart and work as their own.
  - a. They identify first corporately, then as an individual.
  - b. They think and act in terms of responsibilities versus authority or position.
  
- 2.) They use the language of Us, We, and Our because they are family oriented.
  
- 3.) They honor headship and cover the nakedness of their spiritual fathers and mothers. Sons do not delight in the nakedness of a leader.
  - a. If we listen to accusations, we undermine our cause.
  - b. They guard the way they speak to each other.
  - c. They cover nakedness, not sin.
  - d. The difference in motivations will show up under pressure.
- 4.) They naturally honor the chain of command.
  - a. A good soldier takes orders from any officer.
  - b. They recognize real authority, and they also recognize the lack of real authority.
  
- 5.) Secure sons daughters don't focus on loyalty, but the joy of working together.
  
- 6.) They share inner conversations (doubts, fears, insecurities, anxieties, weaknesses, etc.).
- 7.) They always entreat their father and come with open hand for input.

### **The Heart of a Slave/Hireling/Organizational Attender.....**

- 1.) They tend to their own things such as ministries and activities.
  - a. They are ambitious and desire to begin their calling prematurely, often independently. God will give them the opportunity to seize what He wants to give us (i.e. He will allow us to gain our inheritance prematurely.)
  - b. They are willing to settle for God's good vs. perfect will.
  - c. They think in terms of their rights and privileges.
  
- 2.) They use the language of "me" and "my" because they think in terms of their ministry, job, etc.
  
- 3.) They trade in the coinage of revealed flesh; their wage is discovering nakedness.
  - a. They press for equality and level speech.
  - b. They are offended by nakedness.
  - c. Difference in Noah's sons' responses.
  - d. Can't discern between intimacy and familiarity.
  - e.
- 4.) They are unwilling to honor authority; selective about whom they yield to.
  - a. Test of a hireling's heart; ask them to submit to someone they don't "witness to".
  - b. They are often confused.
  - c. They continually need re-definition of authority and roles because it isn't in their heart to submit.
  
- 5.) They focus on loyalty and reveal insecurity, need of position, desire for privilege.
  
- 6.) They share only what they want you to know.
  
- 7.) They carry offenses against leaders.
  - a. They cultivate rejection and mistrust.
  - b. They engage and fuel gossip and slander.