



APOSTOLIC HOUSEHOLDS A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO CARRY THE FAMILY MISSION

Dr Stephen Smith, 19 April '15

Having common belief systems has helped to build unity within particular groups and define their purpose.

Unity based on common doctrines has a measure of success. But there is an inherent problem with this approach - unity of this nature is based upon uniformity.

If the whole group doesn't move in step with what God is saying, there will be a break in fellowship. When agreement in nonessential beliefs are considered necessary for fellowship, then division is natural and to be expected.

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

In the natural, it would be easy to imagine a father with two very different children - one politically liberal and the other conservative.

Gathering around fathers gives a stability that enables people to endure differences in opinion without falling under the influence of the spirit of offense.

Spiritual Fathers

Apostles are first and foremost fathers by nature.

In the same way that a father and mother are to bring stability to a home, so the apostles and prophets are the stability of the Church. The Apostle Paul calls them the Church's foundation (**Eph. 2:20**).

Apostolic Families

Apostolic families are not necessarily made up of just apostles and prophets. They are a group of people that carry the "**family mission**" without selfish agendas. They are sent by their leadership, and entrusted with delegated authority to establish God's rule in their realm of experience and expertise. When they go with that heart, they carry an apostolic anointing because they function under the umbrella of the apostle's authority.

We can't be co-missioned until we're in sub-mission to the primary mission.

Setting aside personal agendas is a big part of the success of Apostolic Households.

Measure of Rule

A big misunderstanding occurs when apostles think they have the same measure of authority in every geographical location.

Authority, like favour, is for the benefit of others. It is not a title to help in building one's own self-esteem, and is never for personal gain.

The Purpose of the Title

The place of favour that one gets as a result of God's unusual touch on their lives is a God-given position to equip others. It is God's heart to take those high points of human experience in the man or woman of God and make them the new norm for the Believer. Equipping the saints becomes the focus of true fathers.

The Spirit of Revelation

One of the things that helped to keep the early Church strong and healthy was their continual devotion to the apostles' doctrine (**Acts 2:42**). Peter understood this when he exhorted the Church concerning "present truth" (**2 Peter 1:12**). The word coming from apostles is to bring clarification of the Father's focus for the Church, and in turn strengthen our resolve to His purposes.

Apostolic families are sent to represent their spiritual father, and carry the word that has been entrusted to their "tribe." They help bring an understanding and establish an order needed in the particular location they were sent to.

The Need for Others

Dependence upon the whole is essential for us to grow up in a way that pleases Christ. As the various "tribes" learn to work together we will see a more complete picture of the Father's intent for planet Earth.

Division exists because people are committed to different levels of truth that appear contradictory.

We are to become like the Jesus revealed in Revelation, Chapter 1 - resurrected and glorified. We are not headed for the Cross - we live "from" the Cross.

The Day of Power

Apostolic order without apostolic power is to be questioned. Order based on Biblical principle that is lacking Biblical power is tragic at best and deceptive at worst. Order does not exist unto itself.

The Wineskin Exists For The Wine.

Wineskins need to flex in order to be useful, because of the expanding nature of the wine in the fermenting process.

Last Days Assignment

All of this serves one purpose - **Jesus is returning for a Bride**. For this to happen, the harvest must be brought in and must be "cleaned." The Bride is to make herself ready for that day (**Rev. 19:7**).

The fire of God must rest in the souls of men. Christians without passion are almost as great a mystery as Christians without purpose. Apostolic Households carry fresh fire with divine purpose. They enlist men and women to God's dream, and in the process the Church steps into her destiny.