

SUMMER TERM 2024

THE LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS  
'THE CONFIDENT CHRISTIAN LIFE'

WEEK EIGHT – 'CONFIDENT IN DESIGN'  
(4:1-16)

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GOING DEEPER IN EPHESIANS

SUNDAYS 5.00 – 6.00 PM

- JUNE 9** EPHESIANS 4 – WHAT ROLE DO APOSTLES, PROPHETS, EVANGELISTS, PASTORS AND TEACHERS PLAY IN TODAY'S CHURCH?
- JUNE 16** EPHESIANS 5 – WHAT IS THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH?
- JUNE 23** EPHESIANS 6 – WHAT IS SPIRITUAL WARFARE?

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## VV. 1-6: SIX 'GIVENS'

AS CHRISTIANS, WE DO NOT GET TO CHOOSE:

- OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST (THERE IS **ONE BODY**)
- HOW WE RECEIVE GRACE (THERE IS **ONE SPIRIT**)
- OUR FUTURE DESTINY (THERE IS **ONE HOPE**)
- WHETHER TO SUBMIT OR TO WHOM (THERE IS **ONE LORD**)
- WHAT WE BELIEVE (THERE IS **ONE FAITH**)
- THE SIGN OF BELONGING (THERE IS **ONE BAPTISM**)

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## VV. 7-16: THE CHURCH'S DESIGN ...

Five-fold ministry – APEST

Apostle (A)

Prophet (P)

Evangelist (E)

Shepherd (Pastor) (S)

Teacher (T)

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- GOD'S ORDER FOR CHURCH LEADERSHIP
- GOD'S ORIGINAL DESIGN FOR EACH BELIEVER

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THESE 'OFFICES' ARE GIVEN BY JESUS FOR VERY SIGNIFICANT REASONS

- **EQUIPPING** THE SAINTS
- **BUILDING UP** THE CHURCH
- **ENABLING** US TO REACH UNITY
- **ENABLING** US TO EXCEL IN KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST
- BRINGING US TO **MATURITY**
- **ENABLING** US TO ATTAIN TO THE WHOLE MEASURE OF THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST

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## APOSTOLIC-APOSTLE

*THE DRIVING LOGIC OF THE APOSTOLIC IS THE EXTENSION OF THE JESUS MOVEMENT IN AND THROUGH THE LIVES OF THE ADHERENTS, AS WELL AS ESTABLISHING THE CHURCH ONTO NEW GROUND.*

ALAN HIRSCH

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- THE APOSTOLIC IS AT THE HEART OF MOVEMENT BUT DOESN'T USUALLY GENERATE IT BY BEING OUT IN FRONT, BUT PRIMARILY THROUGH COVERING AND PARENTING.
- COME CLOSE TO THE APOSTOLIC AND YOU FIND YOURSELF CONNECTED IN WORSHIP TO THE FATHERING HEART OF GOD.
- THE APOSTLE LIVES A LIFE Poured OUT FOR THE SAKE OF THE BODY. PAUL IS A DEFINITIVE EXAMPLE.

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## PROPHETIC-PROPHET

- PROPHETS ENSURE THAT AS HIS PEOPLE, WE ARE TO BE THE ONE PLACE WHERE GOD, AND EVERYTHING HE STANDS FOR, IS REVERED, CHERISHED, AND OBEYED.
- A **VERTICALLY** ORIENTATED PROPHETIC THAT FEELS WHAT GOD FEELS AND BRINGS ABOUT AN ENCOUNTER WITH HIM
- A **HORIZONTALLY** ORIENTATED PROPHETIC THAT CALLS PEOPLE TO COVENANT OBLIGATIONS OF JUSTICE, HOLINESS, RIGHT WORSHIP, AND RIGHT LIVING.
- THERE IS BOTH A MYSTICAL-CHARISMATIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ASPECT OF THE PROPHETIC.

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THE PROPHETIC VOCATION IS LIKELY THE MOST DIFFICULT OF ALL THE APEST CALLINGS, PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE PERSONAL VULNERABILITY INVOLVED (GOD IS DANGEROUS: HE IS A CONSUMING FIRE) BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE PROPHETIC WORD, LIKE THE WORD OF GOD THAT THE PROPHET SEEKS TO REPRESENT, IS OFTEN REJECTED BY PEOPLE WHO PREFER THEIR OWN WAYS. THE PROPHET IS LIKELY THE LONELIEST OF ALL THE VOCATIONS AND THE ONE MOST OPEN TO MISUNDERSTANDING. I THINK THIS IS WHY JESUS CALLS US TO ESPECIALLY RESPECT THE PROPHETS IN OUR MIDST.

ALAN HIRSCH

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## EVANGELISTIC-EVANGELIST

- EVANGELISM IS ABOUT COMMUNICATION AND GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT BUT IT'S ALSO ABOUT *THE INFECTIOUS SHARING OF THE MOVEMENT'S CORE MESSAGE*" AND *"THE DEMONSTRATION OF GOOD NEWS IN WORD, SIGN, AND DEED.*
- THERE'S A *PRIESTLINESS* IN THE EVANGELISTIC CALLING: *THEY HAVE A CAPACITY TO MAKE CONNECTIONS WITH PEOPLE IN A WAY THAT DEMONSTRATES SOCIAL AS WELL AS EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE...* *THEIR FUNCTION IS GENUINELY PRIESTLY IN THAT THEY MEDIATE BETWEEN GOD AND PEOPLE AS WELL AS BETWEEN PEOPLE AND PEOPLE.*

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## SHEPHERDING-SHEPHERD

- THE PASTORAL SHEPHERDING IMAGE IS COMMON IN SCRIPTURE
- IT EMPHASISES *SOCIAL CONNECTIVITY, HEALING AND PROTECTION.*
- SHEPHERDS *CHAMPION INCLUSION AND EMBRACE AND DESIRE FORMATION IN DISCIPLE-MAKING THAT LIVES LOCALLY AND COMMUNALLY.*

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## TEACHING-TEACHER

- THIS FUNCTION IS ALSO COMMONLY UNDERSTOOD
- THE EMPHASIS HERE IS NOT JUST ON THE HEADY AND INTELLECTUAL LOVE OF THE ABSTRACT TRUTH (THE DEVELOPMENT OF A *BIBLICAL MIND* THAT MEANS *SEEING THE WORLD AS GOD SEES IT, AS DESCRIBED IN THE SCRIPTURES*) BUT ALSO ON THE APPLICATION IN REAL LIFE.

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# What



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