

Church – The Beginnings, Part 33

Godly Church Leadership – Antioch

Acts 13:1-2 | 06/11/2017

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

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Acts 13:1-2

Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”.

Background regarding the church of Antioch:

1. Mostly, overwhelmingly a Gentile church with mostly no Biblical Background
2. Originally planted by Jews from Cypress and Cyrene preaching to Gentiles (Greek speaking Gentiles) [Acts 11:19-21]
3. God brought together Leaders to help this brand new church to grow [Acts 11:22-26]
4. God chose the church in Antioch to spearhead the Famine relief effort for the church the region of Judea and Jerusalem.

This church originated from **Born-Again, Messianic Jews** who preached the Gospel to lost Gentiles ... and those Jews were from Cypress and Cyrene.

The leadership **matched** the foundational beginnings, **ethnically and culturally** (mostly):

Barnabas – he was from **Cypress**

Lucius – he was from **Cyrene**

Simeon – he was called “**Niger**” which means black. More than likely from “**black**” Africa.

Saul - he was from Tarsus – near the region of Antioch – he knows their shared culture.

Manaen – more than likely the only Israeli Jewish person on the leadership team.

The connection to being brought up with Herod, means in his household, and may mean raised by the same royal house staff and nurses, etc.

Thus, Manaen would most likely be **highly educated** and be more **well-travelled**.

The **Leadership Team** consisted of Prophets & Teachers – compare with Eph. 4:11-16 ...

And God gave some to be Apostles, some to be Prophets, some to be Evangelists, and some to be Pastor-Teachers → for the Equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry to the edifying of the saints ...

The **First**, God designed, **Leadership Principle** we observe is **Multiple Leaders** on the same page, together, in **unity, in Christ, in the Holy Spirit**. We see this principle in practice historically, here in Antioch. We see this principle with Doctrinal understanding Eph. 4:11-16, 1 Tim. 3:1-13, 1 Tim. 5:17-18, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-5, Acts 6:1-6, 1 Thess. 5:12-13.

For more research on **God’s Church Leadership Model**, please, go to: <https://NLFJI.org/LM/>

The **Second Godly Leadership Principle** is → **Worship and Intercession, in Unity, in Christ**

“... they ministered to the **LORD** and fasted ...”

This is not the whole entire congregation, it is only those 5 individuals who are doing this together. The word for **Ministered** in Greek is the root of our English word “**Liturgical**”. It is used when translated from Hebrew into Greek as to what the High Priests would do within the **Tabernacle** and/or the **Temple** complex in Praying, Praising, and Worshiping God with Service – which included sacrifices and other temple related duties. They were **Worshipping, Praising and Praying to God, together**. They were doing this for such a long time as they forgot to eat, thus they were “fasting”. The High Priest would go to the **LORD on behalf of the people** that he was representing. He would **Intercede** for them. And, so it is with these 5 chosen **Servant-Leaders** of this church. → **Worship and Intercession**

Why does this matter to those of us who are not Elders in our church?

The Elders (as well as Deacons) are supposed to be Examples to flock of God, shepherding them with care, love, and concern.

As Examples, they set the TONE regarding Spiritual LIFE.

Paul said in 1 Cor. 11:1 – Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

If they are God's Chosen Leaders, then those of us who aren't can look to them lead us into a deeper walk with Jesus Christ. We can follow them, because they are following Christ.

Are the leaders praying, seeking God, Interceding for the church, both together as a leadership team and as individuals? Are they obeying Christ, faithfully, for His Glory, and not their own? Then folks should take notice and do the same.

In this case, those 5 leaders were in unity in Christ, for His Kingdom Purposes, worshiping God together, seeking His face and He answered them. They, as a church, were given some new marching orders. They were faithful with the Famine Relief ... their next marching orders from God ... will take that up, next week.