

Accountability, Part 2

THREE KINDS CHURCHES

1 Traditional Church

- This is a church that usually meets for a service on Sunday in a public place.
- They usually hire a paid minister, have a formal membership roll, and are highly structured.
- Most have their own building which incurs expenses and requires upkeep, insurance, and legal protection.
- They hope church members will share their faith and bring people to services to help their congregation grow.
- Some believers will share the gospel, but most tend to rely on the minister or church program to reach lost people.
- Even if new people come, they still might not be saved—but they can easily appear to be Christians!
- Most traditional churches today are not growing, but are in decline.

2 Cell Church

- A cell church consists of multiple groups called “cells” with about 10 people each, all under a central leadership.
- Every week a cell gathers at a church member’s home, and relatives or friends are welcome to attend. They feel that inviting a friend or relative to a home is much easier than inviting them to a church building.

- They hope that within 6 months they can increase their size and split into two new groups, meaning that twice a year the church should double its size. But in many cases, cell groups don’t grow even after a year.
- In western cultures, cell churches are rare and few have been successful.

3 CPM (Church Planting Movements) Church

- CPM churches are based on New Testament principles rather than inherited ideas and practises.
- They are usually small and inexpensive, so they are easy to maintain and do not create a financial burden.
- They are purposely kept simple and informal enough that anyone can learn to start and lead them.
- Every disciple is expected to obey God, and they hold one another accountable—particularly in sharing the gospel.
- Every disciple learns to be a disciple trainer who will train other trainers.
- Every disciple depends on the power of God to do His work in reaching those who are far from God.
- CPM churches focus on multiplication rather than growth in size. They are the key to church planting movements in many parts of the world today.

ACCOUNTABILITY IN CHURCH PLANTING MOVEMENTS

Many people feel that the church exists primarily to meet their personal needs.

But in the New Testament we observe that the local church is God’s people living in accountability to one another to accomplish a task together—reaching the world with the gospel message.

? How do the three types of churches listed above differ in the area of accountability?

In the New Testament, believers were highly accountable to the apostles and to one another. The Scriptures remind us of the vital role we play in one another’s lives.

HEB. 10.24-25 *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together...let us encourage one another.*

? In what ways do you observe accountability in Acts 5-8?

In recent years, many believers have been talking about being “missional.” However, the key is not talking about it, but actually *doing it* by sharing the gospel with lost people and holding one another accountable to the task. Where accountability is low, very few people are reached. When believers hold one another accountable to share the gospel abundantly, many people are saved—which can in turn lead to a church planting movement.

ASSIGNMENTS

OBEY at least one thing you learned from this lesson or your study of Acts.

SHARE the gospel message with at least one person over the next week.

STUDY Acts 9–12.

WRITE what God is teaching you, using the *Acts Worksheet* (handout).

TRAIN at least one other believer outside this group, just as you were trained.

At this point hand out two copies of this lesson sheet to each participant. Let them practise teaching one another what you just taught them.