

**Subject: Breaking the Yoke: Skew Foundations.**

Dear Saints

For the next three weeks, we will publish successive parts of an article which I had finished over a year ago, but was never released to distribute via this network. For the first time now, I sense the Lord urging me to make its content public.

The article represents years of research into the various aspects addressed. Although I anticipate it to be considered "old news" in some circles, and in others labelled as "revolutionary" or even "fundamentalist," "fanatical" or "stupid," I believe these to be issues which should at least be taken notice of by the Body of Christ.

I do not consider the identification of problem areas to be faultless, neither do I regard the suggested solutions as cast in concrete.

Each article represents a substantially shortened version of an elaborate teaching.

Your comments will be appreciated.

Enjoy!

Eben Swart

**BREAKING THE YOKE**

(Eben Swart ([ctherald@mweb.co.za](mailto:ctherald@mweb.co.za)): 6 May 2004)

Over the past four years, research and progressive revelation had shown the following RELATED issues to be major problem areas in the Body of Christ in South Africa, and, to a great extent, worldwide:

1. Skew Foundations.
2. Misconceptions concerning Spiritual Authority and Covering.
3. Infiltration and Control by Secret Organisations.

Over the next three weeks, we will look at each one them separately. Here's the first one:

**SKEW FOUNDATIONS:**

The Problem:  
Moving the Furniture  
vs.  
Digging out Foundations

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow-citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. (Eph. 2:19 - 20).

Scripture makes it quite clear that Christ himself is the cornerstone, as well as the foundation of the Church. But which ministries should lay its foundations? Likewise, Scripture gives us a clear answer: The ministries of Apostles and Prophets.

But who are the Apostles and Prophets?

Church history seems to tell us that the ministries of Apostles, Prophets and Evangelists went extinct shortly after the earthly departure of the original, Biblical apostles.

Hence, a well-known church doctrine, called "Cessationism" denies the current-day existence of apostles and prophets (and evangelists). It only acknowledges the existence and validity of the ministries of Pastors and Teachers. Although this doctrine still has its adherents up to this day, the past 200 years had progressively proved it to be erroneous, ever since William Carey jump-started the Modern Missionary Movement in the early 1800's.

Since the times of Carey's pioneering work, the world has seen a missions explosion, and consequently the full restoration of the office of the Evangelist.

Since the late 1970's and early 1980's we have also witnessed the full restoration of the office of the Prophet. Although the worldwide prophetic movement currently faces various challenges from within and without, it is beyond question that handfuls of these ministers have reputed, sometimes international ministries today - tested by time.

Currently, there is much controversy about whether we have, or have not yet seen the full restoration of the office of apostle. Without entering into this debate, we would merely comment that, if the Biblical guideline of "signs, wonders and miracles" (2 Cor. 12:12) be taken as the hallmark of true apostleship, this office still seems to be non-existent.

What does stand out like a sore finger in the current day Church, is that denominations and independent churches evidently stand on the spiritual foundations (which is Christ Jesus) which were (and still are) laid by the ministries of Pastors and Teachers (read "Theologians"). Many of these foundations were laid even before the restoration of the office of Evangelist 200 years ago!

The strength of any building's foundations determines its potential height. Now, if the building of the current day Church rests on the ministries of Pastors and Teachers, whereas it should rest on the ministries of Apostles and Prophets - then we have a serious problem: This phenomenon will restrict the potential height of our "building," and make it weak and prone to cracks and break-ups. And even worse: It supplies a way of entrance into the Church to the evil spirit of Jezebel. This spirit is well known to be the spirit of the Biblical prostitute, which seeks (amongst many other vices) to reverse God's ordained order. By allowing Pastors and Teachers, instead of Apostles and Prophets (the other extreme of the "five-fold ministry" - Eph. 4:11), to lay its foundations, the Church had opened the door for this very spirit into her bosom.

Although the Jezebel spirit is generally associated with domination, manipulation and control, it manifests a myriad of wiles, causing sexual promiscuity, killing of the prophetic gift, apathy, lethargy, slumber, inability to discern, etc. - all of which are rife in today's church.

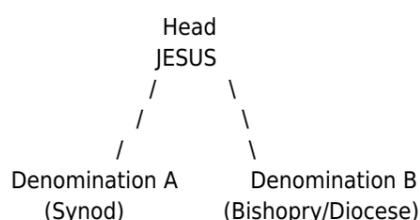
And no wonder - we stand on her foundation: a reversed one. When she moves, the Church shakes!

**The Solution:**

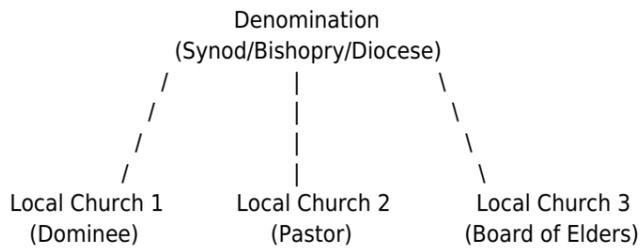
The structure:

Throughout the New Testament, God speaks of His Church as co-workers, employed to build His Kingdom (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1; Col. 4:11). But a Kingdom structure looks very different from that of today's Church

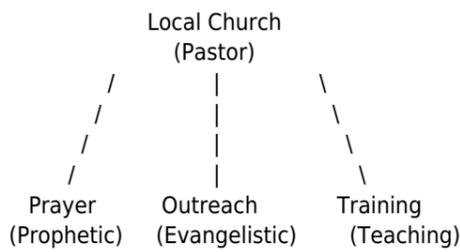
1. IN TODAY'S CHURCH, we have Jesus as the head of the Body, which we have split up into numerous denominations and other independent units. These have administrative umbrella bodies, like bishopries, dioceses or synods.



These, in turn, split up into numerous local churches, all headed up by pastors or boards of elders.

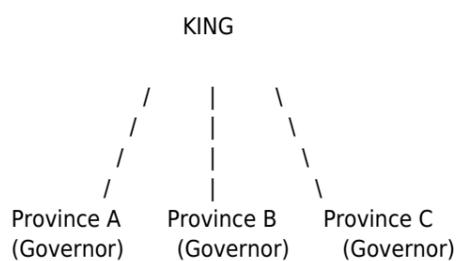


Each local church has its own ministries, usually headed up by laypersons, e.g. Prayer (prophetic), Outreach (evangelistic), Training (teaching), etc.

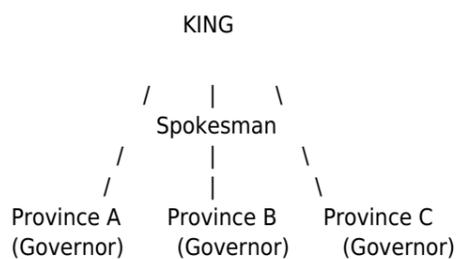


This structure leaves absolutely no room for apostles. Moreover, every other ministry in the local church gets dominated by the pastoral - which is completely unbiblical (Pastors are really mentioned only once in the entire Bible!). Even the prophetic (prayer) and evangelistic (outreach) people are axiomatically dominated by the pastor.

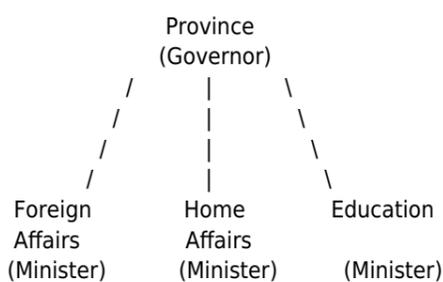
2. IN A KINGDOM, the King usually divides his kingdom into provinces, headed up by governors.



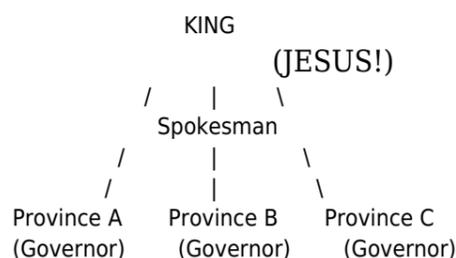
The king's spokesman at his office usually communicates the wishes of the king to the provinces



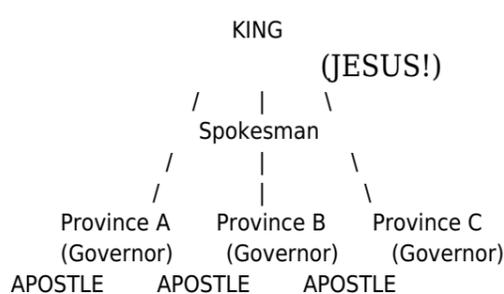
In the provinces, each governor usually presides over a cabinet of ministers, with typical portfolios like Foreign Affairs (Evangelist), Home affairs (Pastor), Education (Teacher).



So how does that relate to GOD's KINGDOM?  
Well, the KING is obviously Jesus!



His provinces are governed not by governors, but by apostles!



His spokesman is the prophet!

