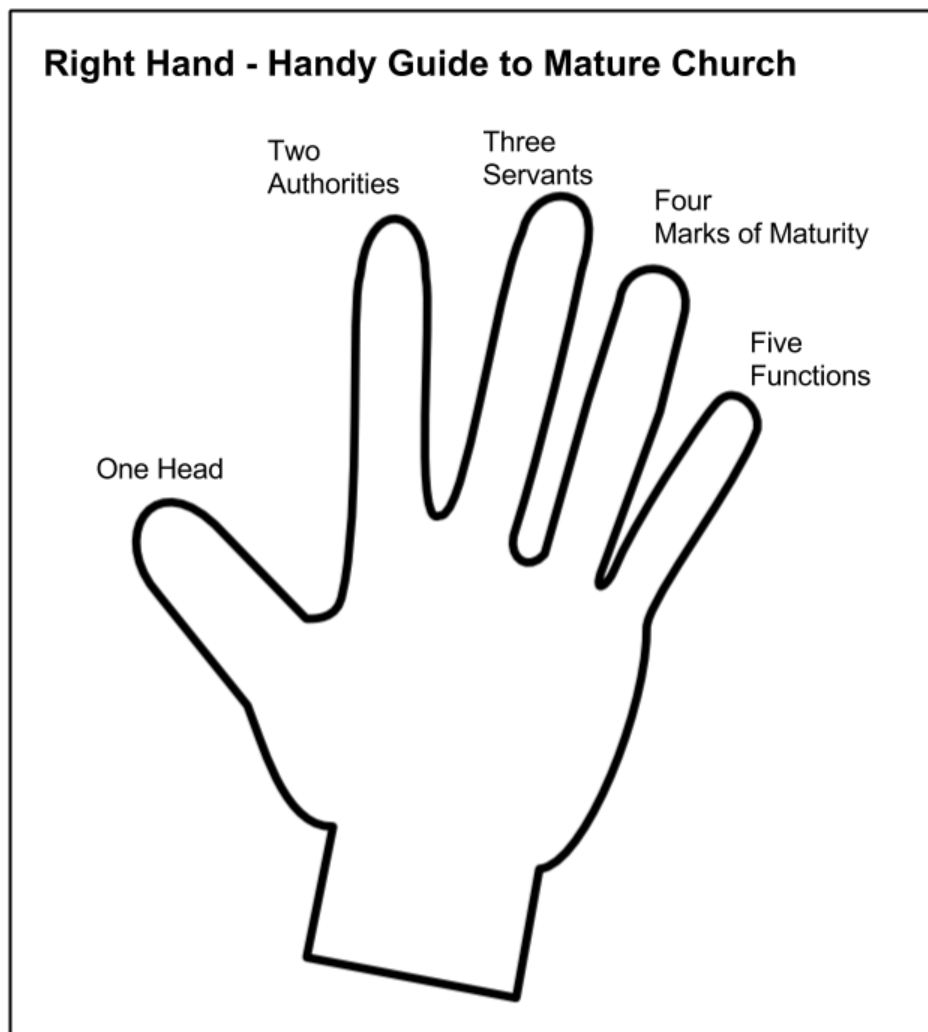


# Church Identity



This guide presents the church planter with an easy way to organize elements of maturity and health vital to the longevity of a church.

Why are these important? - The health of any church is defined by its identity and function. Any church, regardless of size, age or venue with healthy identity and function will be successful.

| Five Elements of Healthy Church (RH)     |                                                                    |                             |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>1) The church has One Head</b>        | Ephesians 1:22-23, 1 Cor. 12:27                                    | Jesus Christ                |
| <b>2) The church has Two Authorities</b> | 2 Timothy 3:16-17 , John 14:26                                     | Word of God and Holy Spirit |
| <b>3) The church has Three Servants</b>  | (Act 14:23, 1 Tim 3.1-7, Titus 1:5-9)<br>(Act 6.1-6, 1 Tim 3.8-13) | Elder -<br>Deacon -         |

|                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                         | (1 Pet 2.9, Rev 1.6, Eph 4.11)                                                                                                                                                                                         | Priest (Every Believer) -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>4) Four Marks of Church Maturity</b> | (Acts 6:1-7, Heb. 4:16, Heb. 4:12)<br>(Acts 2:44-45, 4:34-36, 11:29, 2 Cor. 9:10-15, Phil. 4:14-19, 1 Thess. 2:8-9)<br>(1 Thessalonians 1:7-8, Acts 17:2, Philemon 1:6)<br>(2 Cor. 10:5, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Act 17.11) | Self-Governing -<br>Self-Supporting -<br>Self-Reproducing -<br>Self-Correcting -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>5) Five Functions</b>                | Matthew 22:37-39, 28.18-20, Act 2.37-47                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Worship and Abiding</b> – Expressing love toward God.<br><b>Evangelism</b> – Engaging and Reaching the Lost<br><b>Discipleship</b> – Helping believers grow in Christ-likeness<br><b>Church Health and Multiplication</b> – Developing sustainable Christ-centered communities<br><b>Multiplying Leaders</b> – Equipping Leaders who can equip leaders who can equip leaders in loving God and people thru character, knowledge, and practice |

## 1 Head

[Eph 1:22-23 NKJV] 22 And He put all [things] under His feet, and gave Him [to be] head over all [things] to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

[1Co 12:27 NKJV] 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

## 2 Authorities

[2Ti 3:16-17 NKJV] 16 All Scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

[Jhn 14:26 NKJV] 26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

## 3 Servants

### Elders

[Act 14:23 NKJV] 23 So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

[1Ti 3:1-7 NKJV] 1 This [is] a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded,

of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; 3 not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; 4 one who rules his own house well, having [his] children in submission with all reverence 5 (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); 6 not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the [same] condemnation as the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

[Tit 1:5-9 NKJV] 5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you-- 6 if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. 7 For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, 8 but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, 9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

### **Deacons**

[Act 6:1-6 NKJV] 1 Now in those days, when [the number of] the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. 2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. 3 "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of [good] reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 "but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, 6 whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

[1Ti 3:8-13 NKJV] 8 Likewise deacons [must be] reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, 9 holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. 10 But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being [found] blameless. 11 Likewise, [their] wives [must be] reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. 12 Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling [their] children and their own houses well. 13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

### **Priests**

[1Pe 2:9 NKJV] 9 But you [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

[Rev 1:6 NKJV] 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him [be] glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

[Eph 4:11 NKJV] 11 And He Himself gave some [to be] apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

## 4 Signs of Maturity

### Self-Governing- Who selected the leaders?

[Act 6:1-7 NKJV] 1 Now in those days, when [the number of] the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. 2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. 3 "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of [good] reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 "but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, 6 whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. 7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

### Self-Supporting-Who gives?

[Act 2:44-45 NKJV] 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

[Act 11:29 NKJV] 29 Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea.

[Phi 4:14-19 NKJV] 14 Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. 15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. 16 For even in Thessalonica you sent [aid] once and again for my necessities. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. 18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things [sent] from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. 19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

### Self-Reproducing-Who is responsible to reproduce new churches?

[1Th 1:7-8 NKJV] 7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. 8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.

[Act 17:2 NKJV] 2 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures,

[Phm 1:6 NKJV] 6 that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

### Self-Governing-who is making decisions around the word of God?

[2Co 10:5 NKJV] 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

[Act 17:11 NKJV] 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily [to find out] whether these things were so.

## **5 Loves from Acts 2**

1. Love God (Worship)
2. Love Believers (Fellowship)
3. Love Lost (Ministry)
4. Love Mission (Sending)
5. Love Making Disciples (Discipleship)