

The Apostolic We Need But Don't Want

The Parkland School shooting of 14th February, 2018, has caused students to walk out of their schools in protest against gun laws. However, according to research¹ this is unfounded as the main cause appears to be the student-centred approach to law enforcement set up by the school districts. This involved engaging and helping students and their families rather than passing on criminal activity to the local police. Instead of stopping evil, they accommodated it. As a result, crime increased – but not the statistics they released. The death of Trayvon Martin is a case in point of this misdirected handling of crime.²

Accommodating evil only causes it to increase – just like failing to treat a disease will cause the micro-organism to multiply. Unfortunately, it's the same in the church system. As most Christians live according to the flesh and not the Spirit, unrighteousness continues and is propagated because no one stops it. Church leaders are too afraid to confront unrighteousness because it means members will leave and the Sunday takings will go down.

In the Kingdom, apostles and apostolic overseers are the solution.

But, because of our rebellious nature and the independence that Western society now operates under, we don't want apostles. They are our worst nightmare, and our mind and soul will fight against their presence because we don't like anyone interfering with what we want to do. This attitude is to our detriment.

We need apostles just like sport needs umpires and our society needs judges, police and governmental leaders. Without these the activity or society ends up in chaos. Why? People need direction and someone to keep them in line.

The governance role of the apostolic is not a governmental role – there's a difference. Government with it's elevated leaders and control systems is not the model for the *ekklesia*. The people of God are overseen, not controlled under some autocracy. Jesus is the Head and Holy Spirit is the leader, with the elders operating in a way that keeps an eye on everything to ensure that the 'organism' is 'ticking along' nicely. Plural eldership with the 5-fold ascension gifts operating through them allows the group's oversight to be tackled from 5 different perspectives. This brings balance.

For the apostolic, their role is more strategic, in that they bring order and stability to the *ekklesia*. Their very presence and anointing (*charisma*³) brings part of this atmosphere, but their full impact comes as they handle the following tasks that are not done properly at the moment by pastors and ministers.

- Discipline – Community members need to be disciplined when they are out of order. Although our King disciplines us⁴, those who resist his 'hand' need to be dealt with by a person – an apostolic person. Quite a lot of Paul's writings contained discipline via letter⁵, but he also dealt with it when he was present in the town.⁶
- Confrontation – There are times when people need to be confronted because they are operating out of their soul or their 'flesh' instead of their spirit. There needs to be more of this to keep purity in the *ekklesia*. Jesus praised the *ekklesia* in Ephesus because they hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans,⁷ whereas, he castigated Pergamos for not confronting them⁸. Thyatira was chastened by Jesus for not confronting Jezebel.⁹ Ananias & Sapphira were confronted by Peter, and they died.
- Excommunication – Those within the *ekklesia* who are out of line with the Spirit are to be warned and given time to repent. When they don't repent (change their actions or beliefs), they are to be

1 – Joel Hilliker (14-3-2018) "Why the Parkland school shooting: The shocking story you have not heard" (article) (www.thetrumpet.com/17029-why-the-parkland-school-shooting-the-shocking-story-you-have-not-heard)

2 – The Last Refuge (1-5-2013) "M-DSPD Cover Up – The Curious Case Of Trayvon Martin's Backpack With Stolen Jewelry and Burglary Tool" (theconservativetreehouse.com/2013/05/01/m-dspd-cover-up-the-curious-case-of-trayvon-martins-backpack-with-stolen-jewelry-and-burglary-tool)

3 – The Greek word used.

4 – Hebrews 12:3-11

5 – 1 Corinthians 5:1-5

6 – Acts 5:1-11

7 – Revelation 2:6

8 – Revelation 2:15

9 – Revelation 2:20

removed and treated like a “sinner”.¹⁰ This was Jesus’ ‘beef’ against the two communities in Revelation 2 – they didn’t kick out those who didn’t change.¹¹

- Dealing with disruption – When there are disruptions during meetings the offender needs to be challenge, and quietened or removed. Everything must be done “decently and in order”¹² when we gather. There’s no place for non-spiritual interruptions such as:
 - Butting-in – This originates in the soul and has as its premise: “I’m right and I need to get my point across”; or “I think I’ll tell them with I think”; etc. In the Kingdom, our honour for one another and our desire for others to be advanced over ourselves kills butting-in in the mature son. As most believers are immature in the things of the Kingdom, an apostolic person needs to umpire discussions and sharing times until we are all mature.
 - A demon speaking through a person – Need I say anything more?
 - Babbling –
 - Interjection –
 - Arguing –
 - Foul language –
 - Criticism –
- Correcting false teaching – Paul wrote this interesting expression to the Galatians: “Who has bewitched you?”¹³ He was wanting to know who had deviated them from following the truth.¹⁴ The Judaisers had come in and were teaching them to follow the Law rather than believing and living by faith. A lot of the content of the NT epistles are education designed to correct false teaching. It is the apostolic that has the right, the spiritual strength, and capability to oppose false teaching successfully for a community. (Note that I haven’t used the term ‘heresy’ here as it does not specify false teaching in its 1st Century meaning.)¹⁵
- Teaching Kingdom protocols –
- Maintaining correct worldviews –

While pastors/ministers are characterised in the media and movies as pusillanimous, apostles are not and will not be seen like this from now on. They have an important function in the *ekklesia* and these must be regained for the Kingdom to advance to fill the Earth.

IMPORTANT: Members of a local *ekklesia* need to relax and let the apostolic do their job of oversight. They must stop being a Westerner who always has to have their say and get their own way. They have to learn to be like a child and a son at the same time, as Jesus taught us, letting the spiritual fathers carry out their God-given responsibilities.

QUALIFICATION: What I have written in this document only relates to qualified apostolic people. By that I mean, those who have an apostolic *charisma* (anointing) from the Spirit and have been placed in oversight by the King. It has no relevance for those installed or elected by people, or those who have installed themselves as apostles or as oversight.

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10 – 2 Thessalonians 3:6-7; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5;

11 – Revelation 2:21

12 – 1 Corinthians 14:40

13 – Galatians 3:1

14 – NU-Text omits *that you should not obey the truth*

15 – Read “Are We Heretics” to get an understanding of the use of the term ‘heresy’ in the NT

(canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/are-we-heretics.pdf)