



“The Holy Spirit, Economic Wisdom and the Future of the Local Church”

Overture

The Next Awakening: grassroots movements of Spirit-empowered, 24/7 discipleship/mission

Our Holy and Loving Triune God: Immanent vitality of love, holiness and unity; and economy of wisdom in the *Missio Dei*

First Movement

The Holy Spirit: The Spirit of adoption; the Spirit of Christ – always directing our attention to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Secures our eternal salvation: we are born anew from above, convicted and convinced of Gospel truth and led to repent and believe.
- Is the source of our character transformation as we go from “glory to glory” rooted in “grace upon grace” and activating “faith to faith”
- Creates the church and empowers her mission
- Animates our gathered worship and empowers our scattered work
- Is the power of the future made present
- Provides wisdom for mature understanding and awakens understanding, leading to contextualization of our local church’s identity, mission and impact

Second Movement

Economic Wisdom: a vital phrase underscoring the source of our understanding, liberation from ideological captivity and openness to both divine “books” for application

Why does this matter? Because *effective discipleship is effective mission* and the application of truth to our waking/working hours is a critical facet of witness.

- What is a healthy disciple? 5 Dimensions and the Outcomes Revolution
- Church planters and revitalizers: how will our people eat in 10, 20 and 30 years?
- Romans 12:1-2 and Colossians 3:17-24 end the religious/secular gap
- The Holy Spirit connects us to the full revelation of the Grand Narrative of God the Worker and humankind as stewards of His creation:
 - The Design (Genesis 1-2; Psalm 8)
 - The Devastation (Genesis 3 and Eccl.1-4)
 - The Deliverance in Jesus Christ (Luke 4)
 - The Destiny of the New Community (Genesis 21-22)

- A New Tapestry: the integrated life

Economic Wisdom: In a morally, politically and socially divided global/local public square, the Holy Spirit empowers the church as a prophetic voice of compassion and conviction, confronting both individual iniquity and institutional injustice and offering real-time, on-the-ground solutions for apparently intractable challenges, for “nothing is too difficult for You.”

4 Pillars (Believers will often differ on policy application; however, we can find substantive unity of the wisdom in Scripture)

- Stewardship and Flourishing – and ethos of integrity, service and future hope
- Value Creation – value over money, rooted in liberty and virtue
- Productivity and Opportunity – activating potential, producing more than we consume and transforming poverty into flourishing
- Responsible Action – universal principles and local context and control; public and private united and discovering good incentives for creativity and innovation.

Third Movement

The local church is still “Plan A” in God’s mission – real people, in a place with a divine purpose

“The church is the only voluntary agency that exists for its not members.” (Wm. Temple)

Our task: “Make Disciples” – who are women and men with

- Character: emotional, relational and spiritual health
- Charisms: general and specific vocations and understanding gifts, opportunities, resources and skills
- Competencies: always learning and economically nimble
- Capacity: growing fruitfulness
- Commissioned: ALL good work in both gathered and scattered contexts matters to God

The local church as economic actor and change agent for neighborhoods and nations

- Integrated into the oikos of the kingdom and geography
- Commissioning and celebrating good work in all domains, mountains and spheres
- Catalyzing and convening influences

Pastors and churches: new economic models

- Multi-occupational leadership will grow
- Supernatural “cities of refuge”



- Integrity of heart and skillful hands

Finale

John Perkins: "What the world needs now is Jesus and a good job."

"Your Kingdom come" = righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit...justice, reconciliation and purpose on Monday morning (Romans 14:17)