

OBSTACLES TO STARTING SIMPLE CHURCH

I have discovered that simple church is not simple as it sounds. Many God-fearing people do not have the guts to start a simple church. Here are some reasons why people never venture out to start simple church:

1. FEAR OF MAN

This is the problem when you have been in an institutional church for too long. You now have a set mentality about the pastor of the church and the elders. There are very strict criteria to come up to that level and off course, that is necessary. Ministers in the city within an institutional context may feel threatened by the “new kid” on the block who has started a church. The local fraternal may call the “new kid” a rebel or a breakaway. Others may call him a SAP (self appointed pastor). Because of the fear of pastors, elders, fraternal and forums in a city, the “new kid” that God has called bows to this fear and never ventures into the deep. This fear is misconstrued as respect.

Prov 29:25

*25 The fear of man brings a snare,
But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe. NKJV*

2. LACK OF FAITH

Faith is a risk.

You have to risk losing your old friends in the pastor’s forums or institutional church. You have to risk being laughed at and scorned.

Don’t mis – interpret your timidity for caution – it is RAW UNBELIEF.

Many don’t believe it will work. They don’t believe that God can send people to them for discipleship and sonship training, so they stay and die in the comfort of institutionalism. FAITH DEMANDS WORKS. You have to get out there and start. The rest, the Lord will show you when you show up.

James 2:20

But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?NKJV

3. I AM NOT QUALIFIED

Many God fearing people I know still feel inadequate after 20 YEARS in church. They have been beaten into slavery. They carry a yoke of iron – FEELING INADEQUATE.

Well, seminary training is not essential. None of the disciples were trained in seminary. This, however does not mean you don’t need training. The training in simple church is for life. You never graduate. You labour with your spiritual father. You meet for dialogue and ministry with your spiritual father once or twice a week – face to face or email or video calls. You must know what your spiritual father knows and you must behave like the way your spiritual father does – you must know his ways.

1 Cor 4:15-17

15 For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. 16 Therefore I urge you, imitate me. NKJV

4. WHO WILL SUPPORT ME?

This is a problem for those who are missionaries or part of a parachurch. They are supported by well-wishers who want to see souls being saved.

Donors need to be educated that simple church is a better form of evangelism. No longer will you say to the new convert, “go to the nearest church”. You will now take responsibility for the long term discipleship of the new converts. If your donors don’t like this then they are out of sync with the current purposes of God. You may lose some of them, but God will raise up your own sons to reciprocate to you.

1 Cor 9:11-12

11 If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? 12 If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more?NKJV

5. MY FAMILY IS AGAINST THIS

This is not a good excuse for not starting simple church. Nevertheless it is an obstacle that can be overcome by the Word of God.

Matt 10:35-39

5 For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; 36 and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' 37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.NKJV

Family loyalty is not a valid reason for rejecting kingdom activity. The work of simple church is for disciples. It is the greatest evangelistic tool.

6. I DON'T FEEL CALLED

This is the harmful impact of institutionalism. Many people feel that they are not called. This is a cop out. Did you go for training to get married? Did you go for training to be a biological father? No. You learnt as you went – your family helped you. SIMILARLY IN THE SPIRITUAL.

How is it that every Jehovah’s witness considers himself a minister” BECAUSE HE IS TRAINED TO THINK SO. Our thinking needs reformation. Everyone is called to bear fruit.

John 15:16-17

16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. NKJV

7. I HAVE NO MUSIC TEAM

This is institutional thinking. Music is not worship. It is a small part of worship. Simple church does not need a music team. The main emphasis in simple church is discipleship, not music.

John 4:24

24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."NKJV

8. I LIVE IN A FLAT

This should not hinder you. You are afraid that you may disturb the neighbours. Simple church does not disturb the neighbourhood – it is silent building. THERE IS TEACHING NOT SCREAMING.

1 Kings 6:7-8

7 And the temple, when it was being built, was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built.

NKJV

9. WHO IS GOING TO CHECK ON ME?

Some folk fear that there is no accountability in a simple church.

The leader of the simple church is accountable to his sending apostle – his spiritual father who is in relationship with other spiritual fathers in his city.

Heb 13:17

17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. NKJV

10. I AM INEXPERIENCED

I have not done this before.

Well, get up and start. You will get experience as you go. There is nothing to lose. If you fail, you could always go back to your spiritual father.

Isa 52:2

2 Shake yourself from the dust, arise;

Sit down, O Jerusalem!

Loose yourself from the bonds of your neck,

O captive daughter of Zion!

NKJV