**LET’S ASSESS IT!**

**1 Corinthians 14**

Lesson 15 - Systems

Premise: Ministry is a movement. To fulfill God’s plan and purpose for our lives and for the life of our church, we cannot become complacent or stagnant. We must get *On the Move*! To accomplish this, we must honestly examine who we are, where we are, and what we are as a ministry, and with boldness, begin making the necessary changes to fulfill God call (Ephesians 2:10).

**DISCUSSION**

**Assess, Evaluate, Examine**

**DISCUSSION/DISCOVERY**

What are we assessing, evaluating, and/or examining?

* Our Statements
* Our Systems – 1 Corinthians 14:40
* Our Structure
* Our Strategies

Our Systems

When we talk about “systems” we are talking about the way we interact as a ministry. How we do what we do; the logical processes and procedures that direct our actions.

Critical to successful function is well-thought out and clearly communicated processes and procedures.

Systems require good processes to support optimized function.

Properly functioning systems need measured **processes**. Duration!

Measured processes aid in assessment and evaluation. We can clearly see where the target was hit or missed.

Proper **planning** facilitates functional processes. Functional processes enable viable systems.

Critical to functional processes is proper planning.

Planning holds me accountable.

Planning makes me responsible.

Planning keeps me viable. It keeps my “axe” sharpened.

Don’t expect last year’s harvest from this year’s crops! This tends to be a major contributor to poor attitudes regarding planning.

Proper planning requires **preparation**.

SO WHAT?!?!?!? How does all this apply to what we do at SLBC?

**DISCOVERY**

Preparation is critical to planning. Planning is vital to functional processes. Functional processes enable viable systems.

Proverbs 21:5 KJV “The thoughts of the diligent tend only to **plenteousness**; but of every one that is *hasty* only to want.”

NCV “The plans of hard-working people earn a **profit**, but those who *act too quickly* become poor.”

CSB “The plans of the diligent certainly lead to **profit**, but anyone who is *reckless* certainly becomes poor.”

Would you rather have a *prosperous* church or an *impoverished* church? Believe it or not, we have a hand in helping determine this. These words are not limited to finance and money.

\*What, in your opinion, is some evidence of a prosperous church? What, in your opinion, is some evidence of an impoverished church?

What systems should be in place and fully functioning?

**Administrative Systems**

Governance vs. Compliance

The church is God’s idea, His plan. Thus, the governing document of the church is God’s Word – the Bible.

**Matthew 16:18 “…and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”**

The church functioning in our country should comply with government standards. Hence, the need to have by-laws.

**Romans 13:1 “Let everyone submit to the governing authorities, since there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are instituted by God.”**

The Bible is for church governance. The by-laws are for U.S. governmental compliance.

How does this affect what we do?

We should have systems in place which support and bring balance to our five (5) missional purposes.

We must ask ourselves what support systems we have in place, and what support systems do we *need* to have in place. This will best be addressed by examining our STRUCTURE – which we will do in the next segment of this study.

\*Should a church have paid staff/employees? Why or why not?

\*What might be a benefit of a church having paid staff/employees? What might be a deficit?

\*Should THIS CHURCH (SLBC) have paid staff/employees?

What should be done first to bring this to fruition? **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

**Proverbs 13:16 TLB “16 A wise man thinks ahead; a fool doesn’t and even brags about it!”**

The priests of the Old Testament were, in effect, the Temple staff.

Deuteronomy 18:1-8

There are 24 divisions of priests (see 1 Chronicles 24). The priests served in three primary ways:

* High Priest
* Priests
* Levites

The care of these priests was provided, primarily through the sacrificial system – meat, grains.

**Deuteronomy 12:17-19, 14:22, 27, 29, 18:1** (1-8)

This “pastoral” care is carried over into the New Testament also.

**1 Corinthians 9:14; Galatians 6:6; 1 Timothy 5:17-18**

The point here is that there is Biblical precedent for carrying and supporting hired staff/employees in a church.

**DIRECTION**

Assess – Evaluate - Examine

Spend some time this week repeating/memorizing our Mission, Purpose, and Vision Statements

What staff positions do you believe are critical to the prosperous advancement of your church?