

# The Seven Pillars

**The seven pillars:** Proverbs 9: 1-12, Proverbs 24; 3-4 , 1 Cor 9: 24-25.

All leaders, movements and organizations have behind their public face very deliberate principles, attitudes and disciplines that shape who they are . These are non negotiable markers that set them apart on 'game day'

Apostle Paul- 1 Cor 9:24 – 25.

Building churches that endure is based on biblical principles and practices that are proven.  
Linknz network-values and principles.

Vision: Linknz is a network of churches existing to build Gods kingdom through planting, equipping and empowering churches in NZ and beyond.

Values: Authentic relationship-Spirit life-Mission together.

## 1- EVERYTHING IS IN CHRIST

Ephesians 2; 19- 22 'Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.

Eph 1: 10 ...to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Chris

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no one can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Note Paul's absolute reliance on Christ:

The absolute centrality of Christ is critical to His people and to the power and the spread of the gospel Rom 15:9, 2 Cor 4:4.

## 2- LEADERSHIP

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Everything God builds will have at its core leadership.

Eph 4; 8, 11 When He ascended on high he gave gifts to men ...apostles, prophet, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.

Gods order entrusts leaders to give vision and direction to help define a community's future. . Gen 1; 28, Rom 13:1-7, Ephesians 6: 1-9, Hebrews 13: 17.

God delegates to leaders in both secular and spiritual setting authority to make this possible.

Note:

- God is its author. Rom 13:1-7, John 19: 10-11, Dan 2: 20-21, 4:17, 30-35; 1Cor 6:1-3.
- It has been given to Jesus Matt 28:18.

Other examples;

Ex 4:16, 7:1. Num 27:19. Deut 1:9-15. Luke 7:8. Luke 10:1. Luke 13: 31-35. John 13:20. 2 Cor 10:8. 2 Cor 13:10. 1 Thess 4:2, 8. 1Tim 5: 17.

- Functions best when recognised and yielded to: Rom 13:1-7 ,1 Cor9: 1-3 , John 10:3-4 , 1 Cor 4: 15
- Expressed in the church: 1 Thess 5:12, 1 Cor 16: 16, Heb 13:17, 1 Pt 5; 2-3, Acts 20: 28. 1 Cor 14 :40
- It has limits: 1 Cor 10: 13 1 Pet 5: 1-3. Gal 2: 7-9

Benefits:

- Provides boundaries, absolutes, certainty, corporate identity, value and vision. Acts 20: 28, 1 Tim 1; 3.
- Provides protection Heb 13: 17.
- Provides order that brings peace Judges 21: 25
- Gets the job done Neh 3: 1-4

Our response:

- Recognise it 1 Thess 5:12, 1 Cor 16 :18
- Obey Heb 13: 17
- Yield Heb 13:17 [to stand under]
- Serve Gal 5:3
- Minister back Gal 6:6. 1 Tim 5: 17-18,1Cor 9: 7-11

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Specific leadership roles:

Every church should have at least 3 spheres of recognised leadership:

- 1- Eph 4 ministries
- 2-Elders
- 3-Deacons

1-Translocal ministries; Eph 4: 7-16, Eph 2:20  
These ministry gifts are set apart to help establish, support, inspire, correct and lay biblical foundations in in the church.  
[1 Cor 3:11-15]

Doctrine-Discipline-Direction

Role and Relationship between Apostolic Team and Elders.

Internal integrity demands external integration.

What we build upon and with is critical [1 Cor 3; 11-15].

The relationship seen in NT between apostolic teams and eldership team was both relational; family orientated, but also carried authority. 2 Cor 13:10

What apostolic teams do?

- Lay foundations-Doctrine,Discipline,Direction [Eph 2:20-22,4:7-16,1Cor 3:10-17,Col 1:28,29]
- Train and equip, especially the next generation. [Timothy Acts 16:1-5, Titus 2:13, Philemon 1:1] also Acts 14:21, Acts 20:20,2Thess 2:15.
- Set apart elders. Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5.
- Stir missionality and apostolic vision into local churches. Romans 1:5,6.16:26  
Planting churches or releasing others for that purpose is an apostolic sphere of influence. [Eph 3:10]
- Help direct and distribute finances 2 Cor 8.1Cor 16:1-

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4, Acts 4:32-  
What elders do?

- Lead local churches [Acts 20:28, Phillipians 1:1, Acts 15:22]
- Guard, nurture, shepherd, instruct, train, establish core values [[Epistles to Timothy]
- Community builders [Acts 20:28, 1Cor 1:10]
- Open the door to apostolic ministry [Acts 15:22, Gal4:14.
- Appointed by apostolic oversight Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5
- Set environments of faith [leadership of finances are an elderying responsibility and not a treasurers] that holds a generous and open stance. Prov 11:24-25
- Build missional communities that inspire people to see our region, nation and nations of the world. Matt 28:18,

Receiving apostolic ministries:

- Recognise and receive
- Agreement and committed to building this way.
- Prepare and teach the church on what these ministry gifts are about. They are not just visiting speakers but those that you have received to build with you into the future.
- Make a room for them

Expectations:

From local church:

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From apostolic team:

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Deacons:

Until now we have not given the function of deacon's specific place in the linkz network but recognise their place in our churches in a more casual manner. However scripture gives the place of deaconing a place that is important to the churches health and well being.

*"Likewise, deacons must be reverent, not double tongued, not given too much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But first let them be proved; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless."*

- 1 Tim 3:8 – 10

A. WHAT DO THESE PEOPLE DO?

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B. WHAT THEY ARE NOT

*See Acts 6, Acts 8, Rom 16, 1 Tim 3:8*

C. Deacons function out of an authority delegated to them by the elders

**3-GENEROSITY AND FINANCIAL CREDIBILITY.** -

Prov 11:24, 25. 2 Cor 8; 1-5, 2 Cor 9:6, 3 Jhn 1:5-8.

Every church and its leaders must win this battle - to be both financially credible and generous.

Mission is fueled by finance.

- Leadership. 2 Cor 9
- Consistency-

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- Heart issue; [Matt 6: 21].
- Sowing and reaping principles Luke 6:38, 2Cor 9; 6. Prov 11: 24-25
- Sincerity and humor. 2 Cor 9:7
- Never apologise for it. 2 Cor 9:5
- Paint a big picture. Prov 29:18
- Prayer and fasting. James 1:17, Matt 6:11
- Credibility. 1 Pt 2;12 Matt 6, Prov 24:3-4
- Bless others. Mal 3: 8-11, 2 Cor 8.

#### 4. Authentic Relationship

The nature of the church is essentially relational

Body life flows from this revelation: Organism –not organization.

- a- Body life flows from knowing the Head.  
Rom 12; 5, Col 1:13-18, Eph 2: 19, 20.
- b- We are many.  
Rom 12: 5
- c- We are members of one another.  
Rom 12:10, 15, 12: 16, 15: 7, 15:14 16:16 Jhn 1:7, Jhn 13: 34-35,
- d- Individually members of one another.  
1 Pt 5:5 Acts 20: 19.

All local and translocal ministries flow out of this relational revelation.

Eph 2; 19-20, 4:16 Joints, ligaments, joining.

#### 5 .SPIRIT LIFE.

We believe the church being birthed in the Holy Spirits enabling power is destined to live in that realm. Acts 2:39.

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Paul's constant plea. Eph 4: 30, Gal 3, Rom 8 etc.

The New Covenant is a covenant of the Spirit.

We are the 'Spirits Dwelling' Eph 2: 2-22, the central point out of which He is to demonstrate the kingdoms credibility through us His church.

Signs of Spirit life:

- Gal 5; 22-26, 1 Cor 12:1-11, Romans 12: 6-8, 1 Cor 14: 39.
- Acts 2;19, 22, 43, Rom 15: 19, 2 Cor 12:12, Heb 2;4.
- [ Eph 4; 11-12 1Cor 14: 3-5 Rev 19: 10 1 Cor 14: 22-25]
- John 4;20-24, Matt2;2, Matt4:10 Revelation5:1-14
- **Prayer;** Matt21; 12-16. 2 Chron 7:14,  
My house shall be called the house of prayer

The critical place of prayer and breakthrough needed in every church.

Col 4:2 devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving.

1-Leadership.

Acts 6: 4 But we will give our selves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.

Note Jesus life: Mark 1; 35, Matt 14; 23, Luke 22: 39, 40, Luke 23: 34, 46.

1- Local church- corporate, consistent, persistent.

2- City wide

3- National

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**6** -MISSION. Acts 1:8, Matt 28: 18-20,

We serve a missional God, one who Himself came [sent one – apostolic] to earth.

A commitment to bring everything in heaven and earth under one Head-Christ.

Missions exists because worship doesn't...The goal of missions is the gladness of peoples in the greatness of God...'Let the peoples praise Thee, O God; let all the peoples praise Thee! Let all the nations be glad and sing for joy [Psalm 67:3-4] John Piper

Our Mandate: [Gen 1: 28, Gen 12: 3, 22:18, Hab 2: 14, Ps 72: 19, Matt 28; 18, Mark 16; 15]

Acts 1:8 Local, regional and international

**Church planting:**

**Ministry to the poor, needy, marginalized:**

**Financing mission:**

**Mobilizing the church:**

**7- Authority of scripture:** Heb 4: 12.

God, in revealing Himself, has done so primarily through the inspiration of the Holy scriptures-bible.

The bible remains our primary source of truth as believers. No revelation, prophecy or inspired idea can compare to the authenticity, authority and place of the bible.

God as its author, has used people under the inspiration of the Spirit to write these down [2 Tim 3:16, 1 Thess 2:13] Inspiration means that God breathed His thoughts / inspiration into the minds of people so that they were then able to write down for our instruction, edification etc. [2 Pt 1:21, 1 Cor 2:13]

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The power of this inspiration means they are entirely trustworthy and have supreme authority in matters of doctrine, faith and conduct. [Jhn 10: 35, 17: 17, 2 Tim 3:16]

We must work hard at developing a Christ centered biblical theology that is accurate and true.

Christians need to know about God and his attributes, His purposes and desires for us, about the Bible, its revelatory nature, its final authority, about idolatry, money, power, about what God says about life on earth, pain, suffering, death; and what god says about our human response to such matters; and about God –honoring relationships, about sexual issues, about what’s right and wrong, justice and mercy. [Andrew Lim]

Without accurately being devoted to the word [ Acts 6:4 , 2 Tim 2:15 ] we are unable to accurately devote ourselves to one of the primary tasks entrusted to Gods church-to preach ,teach and declare the inspired word of God.

Within linknz we would expect:

All leaders and churches to open to scrutiny and dialogue from the apostolic team in regards to issues of doctrine, discipline and direction.

We embrace the basic truths of the historic Christian Faith.

- There is one God, who is three persons, father, son and Holy Spirit. God is the Creator and sustainer of all things.
- God, in revealing himself, inspired the Holy Scriptures so that they are entirely trustworthy and have supreme authority in matters of doctrine, faith and conduct.
- We all were made for fellowship with God, but disobeyed Him. So we all have become sinners,

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guilty in God's sight, under His wrath, and alienated from Him.

- Jesus Christ, God's own Son, became truly human. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
- Jesus Christ took on Himself the sin of the world when He died on the cross as our representative and substitute. God thereby showed His love for us and provided the only way for us to be forgiven and reconciled to Him.
- Jesus of Nazareth was raised from the dead.
- The Holy Spirit brings us to trust Christ and repent of our sins, lives in us, empowers us and develops our new life in Christ in the fellowship of the church.
- The church, God's hope for the world, is God's community on earth, commissioned by Christ to make disciples.
- Jesus Christ, the living Lord, will return in person as Judge and King

A confidence, love and dedication to God's word should be a hallmark in all leaders and churches.

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