



Our Work - Fully Rooting the Paradigm



The Thrill of Green Checkmarks

(Taping your semi back together)



The Agony of No Green Checkmarks

(Not getting your 6:30am two fistfuls of sucker pick-me-up)

Types of Leaders

- Transformational: visionary, pioneering
- Servant: Working with others, sharing the load
- Autocratic: Significant control, little influence from others
- Laissez-faire: Very hands-off
- Democratic: Decisions made with the input of others
- Bureaucratic: Adherence to rules
- Charismatic: Charm and personality
- Situational: Style varies by environment

Types of Leaders

- We've all had good and bad bosses, seen good and bad leaders on a local/national stage – and most of our opinion is based on how they handle the problems they are presented.
- Assuming Paul was a good leader, what leadership style(s) did he use?
- One note that emerges quickly in reading his letters, he communicates in a variety of ways to get his point across. Forceful at times, patient at other times.

Pauline Epistles

- Lots of issues come up along the way, all of which could destabilize the churches Paul is establishing
 - Paul personally suffers, physically, and is imprisoned
 - False teachers come into the churches he establishes
 - Some people/churches remain committed to the elementary principles of the world
 - Issues with understanding the implications of what Christ taught

Pauline Epistles

- In looking at how to solve those issues, he had to have the big picture in mind of what he was trying to accomplish
 - He was establishing Christ's church – revealing how it was to be ordered
 - He was equipping leaders to lead and protect the churches when he could not be there
 - He and the leaders were equipping the people to be able to do the work of the ministry alongside them
 - He needed order to be maintained for generations to come – the teaching had to be passed on and owned by people in all generations.

Pauline Epistles

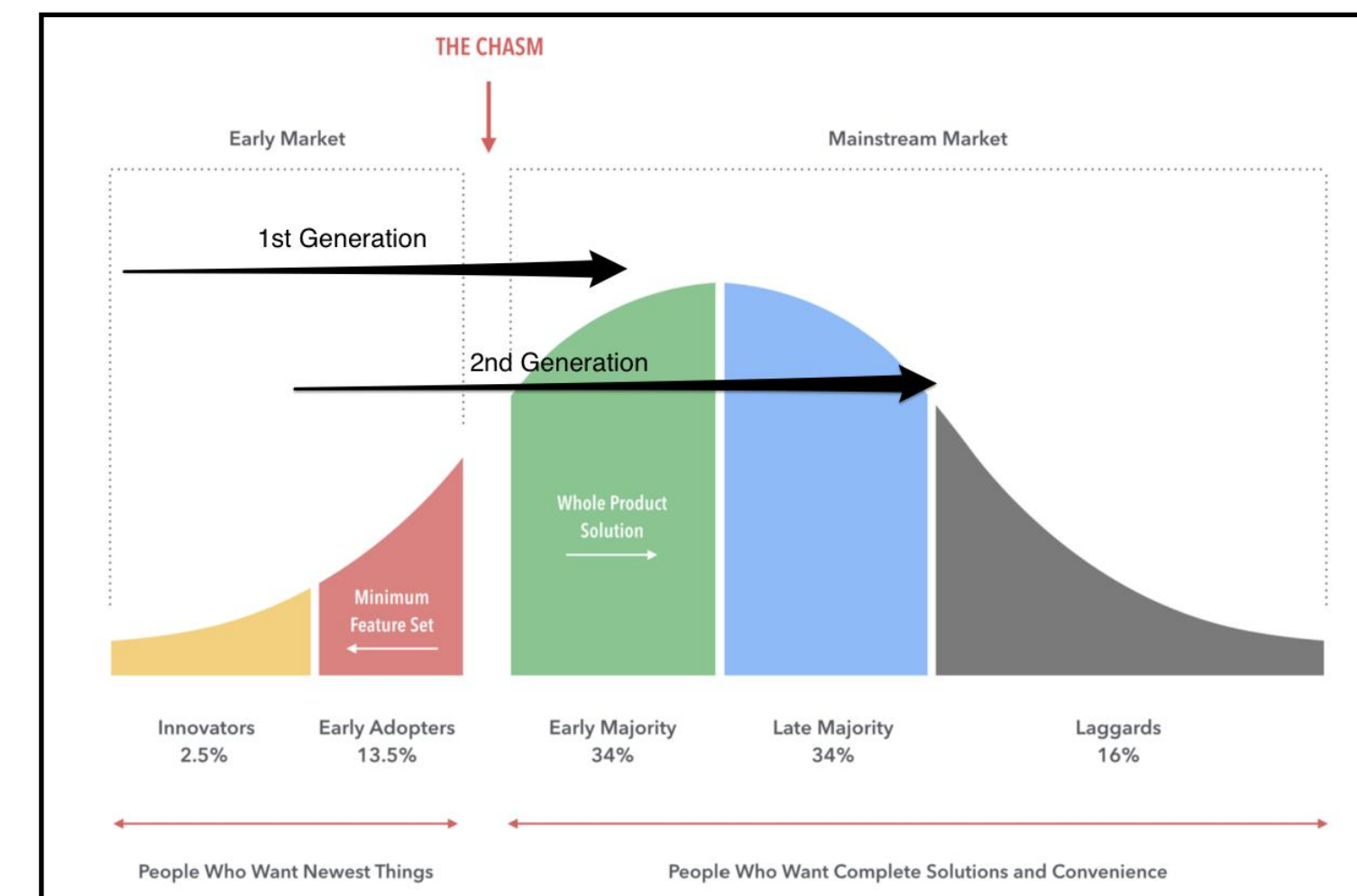
- In establishing the churches, Paul had a plan laid out, and the form was repeated throughout the book of Acts and his letters as he carried out his task.
 - Proclaim the gospel, and build up a base of believers in the area.
 - Appoint elders and leaders within the church to guide the church in preserving the gospel message as Paul moved on.
 - As indicated in pastoral letters, these leaders were hand chosen based on certain character traits that Paul had found in these men. He was entrusting these men to be able to maintain the doctrine he brought them, and continue to build the church.

Pauline Epistles

- Revisit the church to strengthen, encourage, and work out weaknesses in the church body—also sent letters or other leaders to aid in this as well. Paul spent much of his time in this area.
- These churches were then encouraged to help spread the gospel to the surrounding areas and beyond. Emphasis on relationships in and outside the church so that others would view church as a desirable community.
- The churches were to participate with Paul and the Apostles
- Finally, the churches were to pass leadership responsibilities down to future generations so that the church would continue to grow and remain strong in the gospel Paul had presented them

The Way of Christ and His Apostles - Fully Rooting the Paradigm

1. What are some methods Paul uses to help move churches towards establishment?
2. How does Paul get the church family to buy-in during good times and bad?
3. How does Paul step back in to lead when others have led in a different direction?
4. What are ways we can keep ourselves and our church family from being blown around by every new thing?



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- 1. Follow the Work of the Holy Spirit**
 - 2. Apostolic Teams Moving Throughout the World**
 - 3. Do the Necessary Hard Work**
 - 4. Next Generation of Leaders...Stepping Up**
 - 5. Our Churches Truly Becoming Families**
 - 6. Being a Global Network...Family**



Pauline Epistles

- Looking at every book for:
 - Tone
 - Contribution
 - Issues addressed
- As we've been discussing them the relational aspect of Paul's work in the churches has been very evident
- What insights can we gain from looking at how Paul interacted with and led churches through the establishing process?

Pauline Epistles

- Descriptions of how he describes his relationship with the churches
Characterizations of how he interacted with them:
 - Mother
 - Father
 - Teacher
 - Beloved children
 - Paul speech
 - Encouragement
 - Prayer
 - Persuasion
 - Jew to the Jew, weak to the weak
 - Building conviction around the truth, vision

Paul speech

- Several letters are filled with frank Paul speech where Paul is addressing very specific issues head-on
- Galatians
 - **1:9** As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.
 - **2:11** But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. **12** For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party.[\[a\]](#) **13** And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

Paul speech

- Galatians
 - **3:1** O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. **2** Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? **3** Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by[[a](#)] the flesh? **4** Did you suffer[[b](#)] so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? **5** Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— **6** just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

Paul speech

- Galatians 5
 - 7 You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion is not from him who calls you...12 I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!
- Clearly, he has an opinion and he's letting them know about it, but why should they listen?
 - They could turn back to the voices they like listening to
 - All of Paul's talking and encouragement could be in vain

Paul speech

- 1 Corinthians 1
 - ¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers,^[a] by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹ For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹² What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name.

Paul speech

- 1 Corinthians 3
 - **3** But I, brothers,^[a] could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready,³ for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?⁴ For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human?...¹⁸ Some are arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. ¹⁹ But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power. ²⁰ For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power. ²¹ What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?

Paul speech

- The direct speech with the churches worked because he had an established relationship with the churches AND continued to re-affirm the basis of that relationship throughout the letters.
- Spent significant amounts of time with the churches
 - Participated in community with them, in some cases not accepting payment for the work as he could have.
 - Sent other members of his team to keep the process moving along because he couldn't be in all places at once.

Paul speech

- Letters to churches – they were on his mind when he wasn't with them
- They were involved in his work! They weren't the mission, they were asked to participate and help with moving the work forward.
 - The churches were invested in his successes and suffering, and he updated them on each
- The basis of his authority and wisdom was not his own teaching, but that of Christ.
- Continued to reflect on their interaction and encourage/exhort the churches in other ways through the letters.

Authority in the Truth

- **Galatians 1:11** For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel.[\[c\]](#) **12** For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Authority in the Truth

- **1 Corinthians 2:1** And I, when I came to you, brothers,^[a] did not come proclaiming to you the testimony^[b] of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men^[c] but in the power of God.
- **1 Corinthians 2:**¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶ “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

Authority in the Truth

- **1 Thessalonians 2**
- **9** For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. **10** You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. **11** For you know how, like a father with his children, **12** we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

Persuasion

- At times in the letters Paul is looking for a specific outcome that he won't command the church to do, but he may give them a little bit of a nudge.
 - Giving money
 - Receiving people
 - Looking for the churches to be convicted to do what's right.
 - Pretty much an open-book test...that could still be failed.
 - All indications are the test would have failed without his reaching out specifically on the matter.

Persuasion

- **2 Corinthians 9**

- **9** Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, ² for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your zeal has stirred up most of them. ³ But I am sending^[a] the brothers so that our boasting about you may not prove empty in this matter, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be. ⁴ Otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—for being so confident. ⁵ So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift^[b] you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction.^[c] ⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully^[d] will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Persuasion

- **Philemon**

- ⁸ Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, ⁹ yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— ¹⁰ I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, ^[b] whose father I became in my imprisonment. ¹¹ (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) ¹² I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. ¹³ I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord.

Building Conviction Around the Truth

- Paul had obviously laid foundations around the truth when he was with the churches, but his letters continue to build on that.
 - Addressing specific issues where the church is not in step with the truth
 - Generally reminding them of his teaching
 - While addressed to a church, Ephesians is not dealing with a specific issue that arose within Ephesus
 - Common themes popping up in multiple letters (circumcision) with the encouragement to stand firm in the truth
- With the purpose being to be of one mind in the truth living quiet lives, pursuing the mission of Christ and His Apostles

Building Conviction Around the Truth

- Galatians 5
 - **25** If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. **26** Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.
- Galatians 6
 - **6** Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. **7** Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. **8** For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. **9** And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. **10** So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Building Conviction Around the Truth

- 1 Thessalonians 5
- **12** We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, **13** and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. **14** And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, [\[c\]](#) encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

Building Conviction Around the Truth

- Ephesians 3
- 6 This mystery is[\[a\]](#) that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel...8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in[\[b\]](#) God, who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

Building Conviction Around the Truth

- Ephesians 4
- **11** And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds[[c](#)] and teachers,[[d](#)] **12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, **13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood,[[e](#)] to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, **14** so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. **15** Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, **16** from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Observations

- Paul worked hard at building relationships with people and churches where they were at. He expected them to move forward.
- The truth was the authority Paul brought to resolving issues. It can be the same for us, but we have to seek it out AND we have to establish others in it!
- How does Paul correct the Corinthians or Galatians, without some foundation of the truth having been laid by his work and the work of the Spirit? Becomes a battle of personalities and charisma (at best) if people aren't coming at the issue with a foundation in the truth.
- An offensive and defensive tool for Paul

Observations

- Paul made corrections out in love, anything less would have gone against the truth he was teaching.
- Autocratic leadership is not fundamentally in-line with what he was trying to do even if he could have effectively done that
- Paul lived and worked within the churches he started, modeling the truth – again, giving people a frame of reference to go back to in his letters.
- At the end of the day, Paul had to influence others without being the greatest physical specimen, the greatest orator, and without even being physically present. His life, his team, and his teaching all had to be in sync.
- Paul's ability to overcome these disadvantages should give us all confidence as we accurately handle the Word to resolve issues.

Observations

- Don't get lost in the weeds of resolving issues. We must keep the big picture in mind – the quick fix/answer may feel good, but may not equip us to handle the issue or others like it in the future.
- Equipping for this generation, the next, and beyond. Everyone needs to be involved in doing the work according to their gifts, ability, and maturity.
- Unity and mission have to be kept at the forefront lest we become distracted
- Teaching/establishing, familial relationships, meeting people where they are at, good work, encouragement/exhortation, persuasion, and frank speech are all tools we need to have in our toolbox. It's that easy!