

Gospel Instinct: Principles for Flexible Structures

Growing a church is like parenting. As the children grow in maturity and number our methods for nurturing need to adapt. Good structures help to nurture the growth but they must change with the growth. Idealism insists that a particular structure will always deliver growth whatever the circumstances; this can either arrest growth or lose contextual relevance. The gospel enables us to understand why we use structures and why we take them apart again, when necessary. In this workshop we will consider developing a culture of gospel instinct within the church that both promotes and manages growth.

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- I. The unchanging need for change

- II. The sovereignty of God
 - A. A humble confidence

 - B. A clear vision for mission

 - C. A permissive culture in the church

- III. Leadership is about creating an ethos of mission

- IV. Leadership is about organising the chaos that results!

Suggested Readings:

Porterbrook Network, Beyond the Church Plant <http://porterbrooknetwork.org/course-catalog/all/beyond-the-church-plant>

Timothy Keller, Center Church, (2012), Zondervan