

# New Testament Principles for Church Planting

Principle	Explanation	Supporting Scripture
1. The call and guidance to plant the church. Church planters start new churches where God sends them out of obedience to Him.	The principle of calling to ministry can be seen in Paul and Barnabas, Peter, James, and John. God uses various means to show his will.	Acts 13:2; 26:19-20; Galatians 1:11-12; 2:7-9
2. The establishment of the church in places that are strategic for later expansion: Church planters seek to establish churches in locations favorable to later church multiplication.	Paul established churches in urban centers of influence from which the gospel spread to the entire region.	The majority of Paul's preaching points (see principles in Acts for details)
3. The preaching of the Word of God for conversion: Church planters are evangelists who share the Gospel as much as possible and as effectively as possible.	Proclaiming the Word as the primary means of kingdom advance and necessary to fulfill the Lord's Great Commission.	Acts 2:41; 4:4; 6:7; 12:24; 13:17-48; 16:31; 19:20; 28:31; cf. Matthew 28:18-20
4. The adaptation of the message to the audience: Church planters can contextualize the message without changing its meaning.	Paul consistently tailored the message to the audience – a practice motivated by his desire to win as many as possible to the gospel.	Compare: to the Jews (Acts 13:16-41), the Lycaonians (14:15-17), The Philippian jailor (16:31-32), and the Athenians (17:22-31)
5. The dependence on the Holy Spirit for guidance: Church planters rely on the Holy Spirit above everything else. Spiritual guidance supersedes human strategy.	The Holy Spirit is the Missionary Spirit. The apostles depended on the direction of the Holy Spirit for their decisions, although the means of guidance varied.	Acts 8:26, 39; 10:9-16; 13:2; 16:6-7, 9-10; 18:9-11; 27:23-26
6. The use of teamwork in church planting: Church planters work in teams and develop local ministry teams.	Jesus worked with a team of apostles and sent them out in pairs. Later, Paul formed and led various teams and constantly brought people together to advance the gospel.	Acts 13:1-4; 15:36-41; 17:14-15; 18:1-5, 18-20; 19:21-22; 20:4-6
7. The gathering of new believers in congregations: Church planters help new believers form kingdom communities and grow in them.	The apostles consistently established new congregations of believers to group together those who respond to the preaching of the gospel.	Acts 2:42-47; 14:23; 18:7-8; 20:20
8. The grounding of all new believers in their faith through teaching: Church planters work toward the maturity and ministry of all believers.	Paul and his teammates devoted themselves to strengthening the believers through teaching, visits, and letters. They later returned to strengthen them further.	Acts 14:21-22; 16:4-5; 18:18, 26-28; 19:9-10; 20:7, 20
9. The establishment of church discipline: Church planters model, teach, and set up a healthy biblical practice of church discipline.	Paul followed Jesus's pattern and corrected churches that had neglected it. His concern was the church's purity, testimony, and conduct, which reflected Christ's name.	1 Cor. 3:16; 5:1-5; 6:1-20 (cf. Matt. 18:15-17); 2 Cor. 13:1-4; Gal. 5:13-15; 6:1-5
10. Preparing and establishing deacons and elders: Church planters develop, empower, and establish local deacons and elders.	Paul established spiritual leaders initially or returned to do it. He urged his associates to establish them as well.	Acts 14:23; 15:41; 18:26-28; 19:9-10; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9
11. The responsibility of the local church and its leaders: Church planters build the church along indigenous lines and turn it over to local leaders.	The apostles did not seek to maintain control over the churches but turned leadership over to local leaders recognized by the people and then moved on.	Acts 13:1; 15:4, 22; 20:17-38; 1 Timothy 5:1, 17-19; 1 Peter 5:1-4
12. The defense of the purity of the gospel: Church planters guard the gospel from any distortions or misrepresentations and train others to do so.	Paul fought against any compromise of the gospel. As a servant of the cross, he would not allow any watering down or distortion of the message.	1 Cor. 15:1-3; 2 Cor. 10:11; Galatians 1:6-7