



How to Plant a Church - Part 2

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Audio: <http://www.acts29network.org/sermon/how-to-plant-a-church-part-2/>

In *How to Plant a Church - Part 1*, Timmis teaches that the book of Acts is a church planting narrative. In Part 2, he lays out **five specific principles** needed in order to plant a church.

1. Preach the Gospel.

The apostle Paul gathered believers by preaching the Gospel, "...Almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord" (Acts 13:44). Today, our culture tells us that we don't need to preach and talk about the Gospel, but it truly is the most important thing that *all* people need to hear and believe.

2. Understand the context.

Paul never treated one group of people the same way as another; he always preached the Gospel, but he knew his context. In every situation, there needs to be a point of contact with the people (understand their values, history, communication style) and a point of conflict that reveals how their own narrative conflicts with that of the Gospel. It is impossible to be 'context-neutral' so we need to be context savvy. While we can't be indifferent to culture, we also can't be enslaved by it because that will cause us to be blind to the point of conflict.

3. Connect with people.

Planting church is not a sociological experiment. You are working with people who are made in the image of God, who are broken and in bondage to sin, who have nothing but death ahead of them. Church planting is about loving the people you're planting among and being moved by the compassion of God.

4. Connect with the right people.

When arriving at a new city, Paul would go to the synagogues first because there were people there with which he shared a connection (Jews) as well as people called God-fearers, who were non-Jewish people that were both attracted to the ideas taught in the synagogue and culturally connected (see Acts 14). In the early days of planting, you will face temptation to handle everything yourself and attempt to reach everybody, but this will only cause you to fatigue and burn out. Instead, reach those people with whom you have some sort of connection and then disciple those people to reach out.

5. Train and appoint leaders.

Godly leadership is vital for the well-being of the church. In Acts 14:21-23, Paul and Barnabas appoint leaders and elders in the churches so that they can leave them to God. Church planters should be looking to appoint leaders as soon as it's feasible and wise. The church is not ours; it is God's church and he will put leaders there.

Part 1 audio and notes available here: <http://www.acts29network.org/sermon/how-to-plant-a-church-part-1/>