

Triperspectivalism
Prophet, Priest, King
Leadership Teams Built Around Jesus

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Leadership today

- Tips, tricks and methods without much theology
- Easy to build our own systems and ideals
 - autonomous - no higher authority
 - pragmatic - default to what works
 - moral - my way is the right way

Leadership eternal

- Leadership begins with God
- Leadership is about God's glory
- Leadership is for God's mission
- Leadership is defined by God's word

Old Testament offices established to lead Israel

- Prophet – God's messenger to the people
 - Condemnation / Exile
 - Hope / Restoration
- Priest – Mediator for the people
 - Offer sacrifices on their behalf
- King – Rule over God's people
 - Provide structure and leadership

The Bible is all about Jesus (Luke 4:16-21)

- One true God eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, Holy Spirit
- Man is created in God's image and likeness (Genesis 1,2)
- Mankind is fallen and sinful (Genesis 3, Romans 3:23)
- Father sends the Son Jesus to rescue sinners (Romans 3:24-25)
- Father and Son send the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-31)
- Jesus establishes his church (Acts)
- Jesus will return, defeating satan, sin and death for good, establishing the new heaven and the new earth (Revelation 20-22)

All three Old Testament offices foreshadow Jesus

- Jesus is the Final Prophet
 - Earthly ministry – Preaching “repent and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:15)
- Jesus is the Great High Priest
 - Earthly ministry – Healing the sick and oppressed (Mark 1:34)
- Jesus is the Conquering King
 - Earthly ministry – Calling, leading, and building a team of disciples (Mark 1:17)

In our sinful state we're helpless; Jesus is the exclusive answer for sin

- We are ignorant – foolish in our understanding (Romans 1:21,25)
*As **Prophet** Jesus reveals truth in Word & Person, illuminates our ignorance (John 1:4-5, 14:9)*
- We are guilty – born into sin and committing sin (Genesis 6:5)
*As **Priest** Jesus becomes our only, sufficient, mediating sacrifice, redemption for our guilt (Hebrews 4:14-15)*
- Corrupt – contaminated and polluted by sin (Ephesians 4:17,18)
*As **King** Jesus rules over creation and the Church, hope for our corruption (John 1:3, Ephesians 4:15-16)*

Jesus is Senior Pastor of the Church

- As Prophet – His Word is in authority (2 Timothy 3:16)
- As Priest – He is the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4)
- As King – He is the Head of the Body (Ephesians 4:15)

Jesus has given the Church a mission

- Be my witnesses (Acts 1:8)
- Go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19)
- Preach the gospel, plant churches & establish leaders (Acts; Titus 1:5)

Jesus appoints leaders in the Church to lead the mission

- Elders – Pastors, Shepherds, Teachers, Apostles, Evangelists, Rulers (Acts 20; Ephesians 4; 1 Timothy 3)
- Deacons – Servants, Assistants, Under Shepherds (Acts 6; 1 Timothy 3)
- Members – The Body, care for each other, doing ministry (Ephesians 4)

**Leaders image Jesus to the Church and to the world—
together and imperfectly**

- Prophet – The people must be taught the Bible
- Priest – The people must be loved
- King – The people must be led

Leadership teams need to be humble and unified

- Around Jesus and the mission
- Under the authority of his Word
- In philosophical agreement around particular vision and strategy
- Working together in relational unity

Leadership teams need to be humble and diverse

- Having different spiritual gifts (Romans 12)
- Balanced with Prophet, Priest, King
- Recognizing and valuing various leadership styles

Leadership teams need to reflect the Trinity

- Father, Son, Holy Spirit - unified and diverse
- Equality amongst team (an elder is an elder)
- Authority and submission amongst team (firsts among equals)

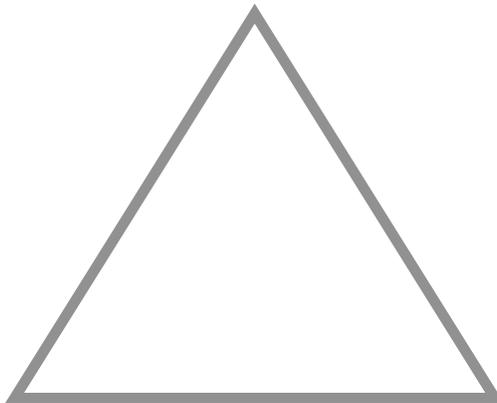
“All three persons participate in all the works of God: creation, revelation, redemption, judgment. The three glorify one another (John 7:18; 8:50; 16:14; cf. Ps. 110:1). There are some differences in focus. In redemption, the Father foreknows, the Son sprinkles blood, the Spirit sanctifies (1 Peter 1:2). To generalize, the Father foreordains, the Son accomplishes, and the Spirit applies the work of Christ to the heart. The Father plans, the Son executes, the Spirit applies. Perhaps this is the intra-Trinitarian basis for the three lordship attributes. The Father is the authority, the Son is the controller, the Spirit the presence. Remember that even as the Father is planning, the Son and the Spirit are joyfully cooperating, and the same is true for all the divine tasks.”

—John Frame, *Salvation Belongs to the Lord* (34)

Prophet

Jesus: Word of God
 Final & Authoritative Prophet
John 1:1

Church leadership focused on the <i>message</i>	
Attributes Bible Teaching Visionary Leads through communication Out front publicly Larger audiences Air War	Spiritual Gifts – Teaching Knowledge Preaching
	Prone to Sin – Harsh Cold Self-righteous w/ knowledge



King

Jesus: King of Kings
 Conquering King of Kings
1 Timothy 6:15

Priest

Jesus: Chief Shepherd
 Great High Priest
1 Peter 5:4

Church leadership focused on the <i>tasks</i>	
Attributes Systems builder Resource manager Vision implementor Leads through strategy Often behind the scenes Logistics	Spiritual Gifts – Leadership Administration
	Prone to Sin – Rigid Rules (methodolatry) Self-righteous w/ organization

Church leadership focused on the <i>people</i>	
Attributes Care and shepherding Developing people Leads through relationships Smaller audiences & 1:1 Ground War	Spiritual Gifts – Encouragement Mercy Relationships
	Prone to Sin – Tolerance of sin Lack of truth Self-righteous w/ compassion or love

Which type of prophet/priest/king are you?

PRIMARY	
PROPHET	PRIEST
PROPHETIC	KING
<p>CHARACTERISTICS Values precision, clarity, truth above practical application or emotional response. Tendency to intellectualize the gospel.</p> <p>STRENGTHS Effective communicator of biblical truth and guard against subjectivism.</p> <p>WEAKNESSES May neglect the heart and pastoral care in favor of truth proclamation.</p>	<p>CHARACTERISTICS Goal in preaching is heartfelt worship over intellectual stimulation or practical application.</p> <p>STRENGTHS Ability to move emotions and affections through preaching, leading congregation to passionate worship.</p> <p>WEAKNESSES May pursue emotional response to the detriment of sound doctrine.</p>
<p>CHARACTERISTICS More likely to speak rather than to listen.</p> <p>STRENGTHS Providing help for those who haven't been given much truth; effective gospel communication in counseling situations.</p> <p>WEAKNESSES May lack follow-through</p>	<p>CHARACTERISTICS Values results, goals; flock-focused.</p> <p>STRENGTHS Organizing, managing, coaching other priests; demonstrating how the gospel is lived out in practice.</p> <p>WEAKNESSES May be overly prescriptive.</p>
<p>CHARACTERISTICS Initiate a project then move on; not content with structure unless it is connected to greater value or truth.</p> <p>STRENGTHS Launching initiatives/change; connecting structures to theological truths.</p> <p>WEAKNESSES Management, implementation, details; tendency to forget feelings of others during change.</p>	<p>CHARACTERISTICS Practical; not satisfied with theorizing.</p> <p>STRENGTHS Implementation, organization, management, coaching; creating and leading structure; developing actionable steps.</p> <p>WEAKNESSES Accomplishing goals without caring for people; typically weak on theology of structure and vision-casting.</p>
PRIESTLY	KINGLY
SECONDARY	

Adapted from "Triperspectivalism: Drilling Down," by David Fairchild

10 Takeaways

1. Leaders need to be good in and under authority, modeling Trinitarian equality and submission.
2. Everyone gains and gives up something to be a part of a great team.
3. Understand the difference between a movement-focused, flock-focused and sheep-focused leader.
4. Find your identity in Jesus and not your leadership style.
5. Avoid pigeon-holing leaders but do recognize their strengths and weaknesses to slot them accordingly.
6. Build your communication strategy around speaking all three languages to the church: Prophet, Priest and King (scripture, stories, stats).
7. Think one to three stages ahead of where you are at and anticipate what leaders you'll need for each stage.
8. Providing jobs for people is not the primary mission of the church; gracefully make the hard calls when necessary.
9. Different seasons call for different leadership gifts on your team or in the organization. Ensure flexible structures that allow for ebb and flow.
10. Honor Jesus' authority in your church as the Final Prophet, the Great High Priest, and the Conquering King!