

Foreword

When we read the New Testament and relate what we read to the contemporary church, we are compelled to conclude that the relationship is more frequently one of contrast rather than comparison. Why? Why the disparity between the church of the 80s and the 1980s?

We have the same Person; we have available the same power; we are called essentially to the same purpose. But that is precisely where the rub comes. The early church never became fogged as to their purpose. They knew why they were here on earth instead of in heaven. Do you?

John Moore and Ken Neff's excellent "blueprint" seeks to answer this query in a refreshingly realistic way. Not everyone will agree with every conclusion, but that makes the book even more worthwhile. It will do more than rearrange prejudices; it will challenge presumptions.

These authors are not armchair strategists throwing rocks at the church; for years they have been deeply involved in the struggle to build a bridge between the revealed Scriptures and the daily life of a local body of believers. Along with gaining substantial academic credits, John has earned his spurs in the arena of life. Unlike many professors, he does not retreat to the comfort of the classroom to answer questions no one is asking. Ken, after finishing his seminary

A New Testament Blueprint for the Church

training, worked for a number of years on the pastoral staff of a large evangelical church. Following that, he has actively served in a number of leadership roles in the church, and has developed materials useful for rethinking and implementing biblical principles. Both men have hammered out their philosophy of ministry in a variety of forums, of which this book is a recent product.

This book is more than a vain quest for the perfect New Testament church that never did exist. Rather, it is an honest attempt to conform the church's life to the patterns of the New Testament. It is not merely descriptive, but prescriptive.

If you are tired of doing what you do in a local church without really knowing how or—more important—why, read this book. If you think your church has it “all wired,” read this book and discover the divine performance code. You may need to do some changing—including changing yourself. That would be worth far more than the price of the book.

Howard G. Hendricks