



The Prosperity Gospel

Dynamics Of A Prosperity
Church



Introduction...

- We have been talking about the Prosperity Gospel as distinct from the Doctrine of Prosperity which is a sound teaching fundamental in the Church and in the Bible.
- When we say Prosperity Gospel in these sessions, we are talking about an imbalanced teaching in the Church today which many times becomes a false teaching and sometimes even heresy.



Introduction

- We are not teaching an anti-prosperity message in these sessions, but we are highlighting, imbalances, excess, false teaching and heresy.
- It is not wise or proper to lump everything into a stark right and wrong or black and white. Sometimes life and reality are more nuanced.
- We allow the Word of God be the scalpel or laser in the hands of the Holy Spirit to scan each heart.

Introduction...

- In this session, we will be looking at the culture and ambience or dynamics within Prosperity leaning churches compared to scripture.
- It is not very easy to discern people's hearts but the bible talks about fruit and actions which are give away signs to enable us draw our own conclusions on matters.





The Exalted Minister Of God

- In some Churches, the Senior Pastor or Minister (Male or Female) have absolute power, authority and sway of the church congregation.
- Nobody dare question their decision, vision and directive. It is command and obey.

The Exalted Minister Of God

- ²⁵ But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles have absolute power and lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them [tyrannizing them]. ²⁶ It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant,
 - ²⁷ and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your [willing and humble] slave; ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many [paying the price to set them free from the penalty of sin].”

Matthew 20:25-28





The Exalted Minister Of God

- If you are in a church, where the minister or leaders have absolute power and nobody can challenge, critically review or question decision making, then you may be in one of these 'Prosperity Churches' we are identifying.
- Please note, it is a combination of behaviors, culture or structures we are comparing with Scripture.

Aaronic Priesthood

- The People access God through the Anointed Minister as a culture of belief.
- Even though People are encouraged to pray and have a relationship with Christ, they are also taught that the Minister's prayers are superior to theirs and they have to go through the Pastor to get special prayers answered.



Aaronic Priesthood

- The Pastor is “The Angel Over The House” and God will speak with him or her first before anyone else.
- The Church is ‘owned’ by the visioner and only ONE VISION is allowed to drive or thrive within the Church.
- God can and will speak to the Pastor first even before He speaks to you about your own destiny, who you may marry or where you can serve within the Church



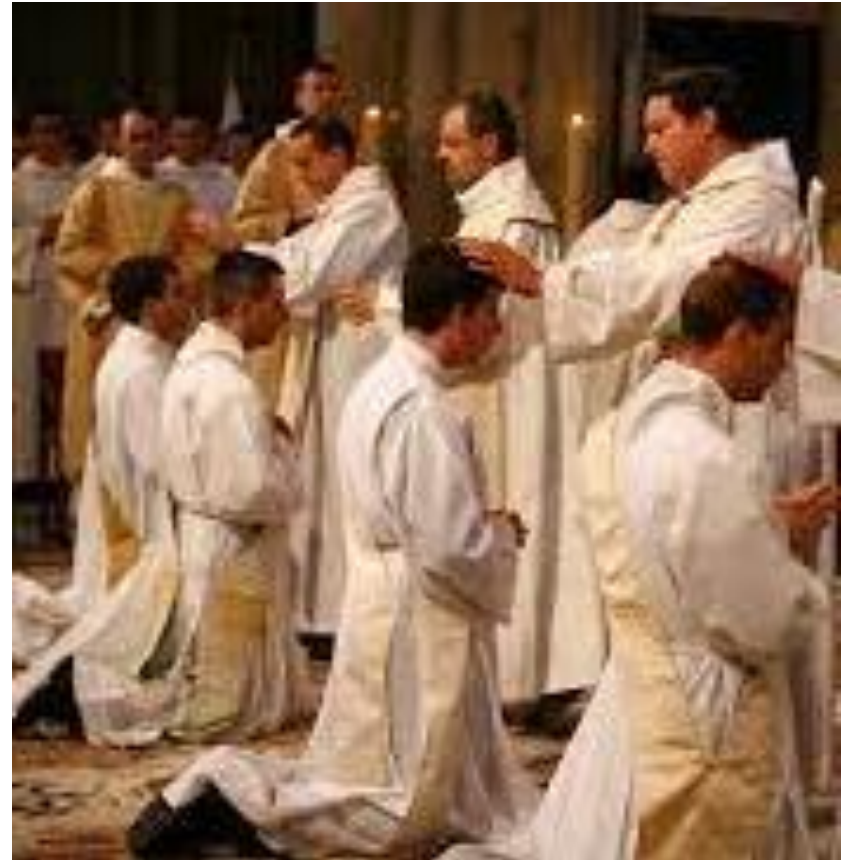
Aaronic Priesthood

- The Congregation is on a level 'below' the Anointing on the Pastor or other Ministers of God.
- Members cannot hear from God themselves and implement their own inspiration within the church if it does not 'fit' the vision of the Pastor
- The Anointing and Grace upon the Pastor can never be surpassed by any Sheep or Member of the Congregation



Aaronic Priesthood

- ¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the [le](#)edifying of the body of Christ,
- ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;
- ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,
- ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love
Ephesians 4:11-16.



Money Is Alpha & Omega

- Money and status are upheld as priority goals for the whole community.
- Those with Money are treated better than those who do not have much.
- Special prayers are bestowed on those who contribute the most
- The teachings make it clear that your money or seed is the key to your Blessing or answered prayers.





Money Is Alpha & Omega

- Offerings and Collections are given priority and upheld as very or most important during the service or event.
- Donations to the Pastor or Honorarium for the Ministers is an industry on its own.
- Sowing into the Anointing is a key set of teaching within the Prosperity Churches
- Blessing Leaders with massive donations or gifts is linked to increased blessings, breakthroughs and opened doors.



Money Is Alpha & Omega

- Pastors give more time and appointments to those who contribute more finances to the church.
- If you do not have money, you are relegated to see a junior minister or another lower-level minister but not the senior pastor.
- There is a hierarchy and rewarding system based on the level of donations made
- Many times, in prosperity churches, there can be several offering times in one service.
- Your Faith is linked to your prosperity and financial income. The more faith, the more money you can receive.

Money...

- For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. 1 Timothy 6:10
- “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. Matthew 6:24



Money...

- Do not weary yourself to gain wealth, Cease from your consideration of it. Proverbs 23:4
- and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus *said to him, “Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’ Matthew 4:9-10





Materialistic Focus...

There is an unhealthy focus on things, stuff, and competitiveness around materialistic things.

Materialistic Focus...

- The Leader or leaders encourage and promote owning expensive things under the slogan; “ God;s Children deserve the best things...
- This creates a culture of extravagance and unnecessary pressure to measure up.
- People can slip into the bottomless pit of lust and greed where nothing can satisfy the wanton need for more and more stuff.



Materialistic Focus...

- In the name of God and the Gospel anything and everything is up for grabs as necessary for the work of the ministry.
- The most expensive hotels, the most pricey cars, yachts or homes can be bought by the ministry off the backs of donations, offerings and tithes of the faithful followers.



Materialistic Focus...

- ⁶ Now godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.





Materialistic Focus...

- ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Materialistic Focus...

- ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
- ¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness
1Timothy 6



A group of people, including men in suits and sunglasses and a woman in a blue suit, walking in a hallway. The scene is dimly lit, and the floor has a colorful geometric pattern.

Pastor vs God...

The Minister of God makes an entrance in the middle of congregational worship to the Almighty God

Pastor Vs God

- People pay obeisance and actual worship or adoration to their minister who receives it in the name of the anointing or working miracles



Pastor Vs God

- And Jesus answered him, "It is written, ""You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve. Luke 4:8



Pastor Vs God

- ¹¹ Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian *language*, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!”
- ¹² And Barnabas they called [d]Zeus, and Paul, [e]Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. ¹³ Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes.
- ¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out ¹⁵ and saying, “Men, why are you doing these things?”
- We also are men with the same nature as you and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, ¹⁶ who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. Acts 14:11-16



A Numbers Game...

- There is an emphasis on size of congregation, how big the church is which applies tremendous pressure on Pastors to achieve this by whatever means possible.
- Pastors of large churches are given special treatment, special honorarium and the best status.



A Numbers Game...

- The amount of money and wealth and power generated by these large numbers ultimately pushes the Senior Minister over the edge.
- The general culture of none accountability in the area of money can breed corruption and temptation that many Leaders did not see coming.



A Numbers Game...

- ²² On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.'
- ²³ But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'
Matthew 7:22-23



And The List Goes On....

Clubs
within the

Seating
Arrangem
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No
Accounta
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Armourbe
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Church
Trumps
The

Church vs
Come To

- Sow Upwards Into The Anointing
- Touch Not The Anointed
- Low Biblical Literacy
- No Doctrine of Suffering
- No Discipleship

In Summary...

- The Gospel of Prosperity is different from the Doctrine of Prosperity. One is Biblical, the other is not.
- The fruit of the Prosperity Gospel is not in keeping with the scriptural type of fruit
- We cannot separate everything into clear black and white on some matters. Only God can be judge in all things.



In Summary...

- We need to be discerning to separate the wheat from the chaff on matters of truth and false doctrine.
- There are many sincere and innocent souls caught up with many churches teaching the false doctrine of the Prosperity Gospel
- We need to be making Disciples for Christ as they will be able to separate what is true from that which is false.

