

The Orbital, Or Creation Model of Leadership

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It has been said that form follows function. In other words, function (the manner in which a particular activity or action is done) determines the shape or design, which furthers, advances, and allows that activity to happen. Therefore form, though subservient to function, is still very important. Form makes function easier to accomplish.

Function is intimated in the Lord's model prayer. "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven" has a much broader application than many grasp. It tells us that it is God's will for all that is contained in Heaven to be implemented on the earth. The grand result of this prayer is that at some glorious time in the future there will be a new Heaven, a new earth, and a New Jerusalem that will come down to earth. The earth itself will be transformed. When we actually stop to ponder the throne room scene in Heaven we find it is the God-shaped form of Heaven that allows it to operate—if I might be so nonreligious as to say—at both peak efficiency and effectiveness. Nothing in Heaven is without purposeful design. Form is a necessary post-cursor to function.

Heaven's grand design is created to allow the highest level of interaction between God, earth, and humankind. Nothing is as important as God's touch, not only on this earth, but even more so in our hearts. Can you imagine God designing anything to which He would later have to say, "Oops, that didn't work. Let me try again"?

There are several issues contained in this model prayer, but for now I'd like to address just one—the basic governmental structure of Heaven. For this moment we are going to focus on the most intense portion of Heaven, the hub, the very core of activity; the throne room, the place where God sits. The throne room is command central. All orders, laws, and inter-dynamics of creation emanate and are overseen from here. It is specifically designed to accomplish that purpose. Its form follows its function.

What allows all God's creation to function is His authority contained within every particle. No, God is not every particle, but a sliver of Heaven's essence is within everything.

One of the first things I noticed when God took me to the throne room was that there were very few straight lines. The elders were not in a straight line—they were circled around the throne. The living creatures were circled as well and, surprisingly, the lamp stand was not in a straight line. Like Ezekiel's vision of the wheels within wheels, so were the circles of Heaven.

No wonder Job wrote about the circle of Heaven (Job 22:14) and Daniel wrote about the wheels of the throne of God (Daniel 7:9). Everything within the confines of God's governmental structure is *around* or orbiting the throne. So, I pose this question: *What if the description of the throne room is written simply to convey the proper church governmental structure?* Just suppose that within the pages of the

written Word is also contained the protocols of church government. What if Heaven's design is a blueprint of how we are to build our church's governmental structure, a structure that is not in a straight line, but curved, or even orbital, rather than in the linear and hierachal form we see in most churches today?

If form does follow function, then the orbital model of government we see in the throne room might well be a more effective model to usher in the Kingdom of God on earth, so this earth becomes more like Heaven. If this is accurate, and form follows function, then when the Spirit of God increases His presence in our church services, shouldn't that create changes in the form of our oversight? Should there be any area, within us or within the governance of our church, which is off limits to this change?

Perhaps this is why, for the great part, we do not see the largely held hierachal governmental model currently used in most church and denominational structures found in the New Testament or in God's throne room. Shouldn't God's design become ours? Wouldn't one think His design might be the best for reasons we might not understand yet?

But, we think with a Greco/Roman mindset. This mindset is logical, and logic is linear. Logic has predictable outcomes and, with proper planning, that predictability increases. We humans tell ourselves that we need the security that predictability brings. Surprises can hurt. Laid out before us on a hierachal organizational chart we can see everything. The down line of authority flows neatly and everyone is covered by the person above him or her. But, in an orbital model that changes.

As authorities or leaders circle or orbit that which they have linked to, there are those times when they might advance to a place where they are out of our eyesight. After all we do not have *eyes all around* or in back of our heads. The safety of a solid hierachal down line lies in the fact that we do not lose sight of anything. Then why did God design the ruling part of Heaven the way He did? Are we missing something? I believe we are.

We are missing the fact that to the degree total control is exercised over a created being, that created being loses its own ability to imagine, create, invent, and design anything new. When under total control, created beings will always revert to that which is "already" rather than to that which "is not." No wonder innovation is said to be the greatest lack in the corporate world today; control stifles it.

Orbital models of government allow people to be creative because you can't see and control each person all of the time. They can even design their own orbits. God created most orbits elliptical; in other words they will be closer at some points than at others. And this is okay; in fact it is great. But in a linear, hierachal format, giving someone too much latitude is felt to be far too dangerous. I've heard many pastors say, "If I give them too much authority, they could take all my people. I have to watch them."

Orbital models keep the element of love alive between the mentor and the one mentored. The father's heart is seen. The desire for the well-being of the person being mentored is predominant. There is no threat that comes from the growth of the person who reports to you. There is no feeling of the one above you standing in your way and keeping you from your destiny. Why? Because the person who is helping you is actually helping you reach the purpose for which God created you.

Your advancement is your mentor's ultimate goal. The more you mature, grow, and expand, the better the mentor feels. There is no threat; there is only loving pride in the accomplishments of the spiritual son or daughter. I do not believe this can easily happen in a hierachal structure.

In an orbital model, events are not predictable. In fact, as various people orbit around you, it will often seem more like chaos than order. In the orbital model, results emerge from the melee. Ideas that have never surfaced present themselves to you. It is here leadership explodes, love and respect mature, creativity ignites, and the model becomes a spiritual magnet attracting those who long to have what they see . . . the Kingdom of God.

Thus, we see the scriptural reality of form following function. The form of anything involved in heavenly mandates is essential to the accomplishment of the goal. The goal we are all seeking is simply God's Kingdom to come and His will to be done here on earth as it is in Heaven.

Orbital models require leaders who are secure. This is a rarity in today's world. But, this is another aspect of government and the glorious Kingdom of the living God. It is to be addressed a different day.

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