
ORGANIC TO SYSTEMATIC

DEFINITION OF ORGANIC AND SYSTEMATIC

When we speak of organic and systematic work, we are giving a name to different apostolic styles mentioned in the Bible. They are not defined by those names in the Scriptures, just like the Trinity, but we can clearly see them happening. Let me explain to you what I mean by these two words.

ORGANIC

To demonstrate what I mean by organic, we could picture two plants of the same sort, which are planted in the same kind of pots, but placed in two different places. One on a window, and another one between bushes in the garden. Each one of them will grow in different directions, seeking for sunlight and avoiding obstacles. One might grow larger than the other one, according to the circumstances. They will adapt to the surroundings and develop in different ways in order to reach the same goal.

The Lord called the church “His Body.” A body is an organism, and acts organically. For example, we can all sit down, but we sit differently according to the circumstances and the kind of chair we are sitting on. The way we sit is a means to an end: comfort, respect, functionality, etc. A machine, on the contrary, does always the same and in the same way.

So, to do the work of the Kingdom of God organically would mean that it is malleable, that it can adapt to the circumstances in order to reach the ultimate goal. It means that it is capable of developing in an spontaneous way, relationship-based, in communion with God and with one another.

SYSTEMATIC

Systematic work would be, following the example posted above, the work of the gardener on all the plants in a garden. He has a way of taking care of the plants which protects and potentiates their organic growth. Through this gardening system all of the plants accomplish together a communal goal.

In the gospels, the Lord Jesus spoke about His church as a building. So did also Paul. To build requires planning, intentionality, strategy, intelligence. In this manner, systematic work in the Kingdom of God could be compared with the work of an architect or master builder.

To work systematically in the Kingdom does not mean to sacrifice the organic, but to use a specific approach that would be both biblical and effective in protecting, stimulating, and potentiating the organic growth of each family, group, or community of believers.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

A perfect example that combines both styles of work would be the church of Antioch, in Syria. This church was begun by two Jewish disciples who evangelized the Greek, resulting in an organic explosion of radical conversions, signs and wonders. As they witnessed in awe all what the Holy Spirit was doing through them, the apostles in Jerusalem heard about it and sent Barnabas as an apostolic worker. He confirmed the genuineness of their conversions, and stayed there to form a team of local leaders (Acts 13) and to establish a healthy system that would protect, equip, and multiply the flock.

But among them were some men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began proclaiming the Lord Jesus even to the Hellenistic Jews. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number of people believed and turned to the Lord. When the church in Jerusalem heard this news, they sent Barnabas all the way to Antioch. When he arrived, he

rejoiced to see what the grace of God had done, and with hearty determination he kept encouraging all of them to remain faithful to the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith. And so a large number of people was brought to the Lord. Then Barnabas left for Tarsus to look for Saul. When he found him, he brought him to Antioch, and for a whole year they were guests of the church and taught many people. It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians.

Acts 11:20-26 ISV

Another example is what happen in Samaria, just before Antioch. Here an evangelist (the only one mentioned in Scripture as such) starts a big revival among the Samaritans, but doesn't know what to do afterwards. So, just like in Antioch, help was sent from Jerusalem. Then Peter and John came and gave shape to what had started organically. You can read about it in Acts 8:4-25

We can see Paul as well doing the same in the Galatian churches. He started organically, no structure nor leaders, but on the way back after his first missionary journey he appointed leaders as a last step to establish those communities and ensuring they would function well.

As they were proclaiming the good news in that city, they discipled a large number of people. Then they went back to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to continue in the faith, saying, "We must endure many hardships to get into the kingdom of God." Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church, and with prayer and fasting they entrusted them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Acts 14:21-23 ISV

WHAT IS THERE FOR US TO DO?

If you have followed the model or the principles shared on these lessons, you must have by now a house group of disciples that functions as a spiritual family. There is a commitment to stay together for a period of time, and care for each other, where everyone feels safe and is equipped and encouraged.

If this has been done correctly, you face now two different risks. One is that it becomes so comfortable that no one is taking on new goals or is reaching out to the lost. It will become a mini-traditional church. The other risk is that if the disciples you serve don't get sent, they will grow critical and bitter. This can develop bitterness and division.

So, it is important to define a new way of working for your Kingdom Family, which will bring them into the desired result of multiplication. This requires that you all agree in how you want to work, and what will be the normal processes of conversion, new birth, discipleship, evangelism, etc.

The Bible tells us about different movements or revivals. Each one of them had their own character, pros and cons. All in all, they let us see many of their dynamics and traditions. See what Paul said about it:

In the name of our Lord Jesus, the Messiah, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is living in idleness and not living according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know what you must do to imitate us. We never lived in idleness among you. We did not eat anyone's food without paying for it. Instead, with toil and labor we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to any of you. It is not as though we did not have that right, but, we wanted to give you an example to follow. While we were with you, we gave this order: "If anyone doesn't want to work, he shouldn't eat." We hear that some of you are living in idleness. You are not busy working—you are busy interfering in other people's lives! We order and encourage such people by the Lord Jesus, the Messiah, to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers, do not get tired of doing what is right. If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of him.

*Have nothing to do with him so that he will feel ashamed. Yet, don't treat him like an enemy,
but warn him like a brother.*

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 ISV

Here we see that Paul had left in Thessalonica a set of procedures and customs that he expected them to follow and impart on others. In this text he is dealing with the issue of laziness, a very present problem in the church that worked in Thessalonica.

There are more texts on this matter, but we will deal with them in the lesson about the DNA package. Further, you can follow [this link](#) to see a set of lessons about the different DNAs of the churches in the New Testament.