

Ambassadors▪ April 9 ▪ John Paul Schulze

**Church Home**:

**Acts 4:32** Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.**33** And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.**34** There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold **35** and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.**36** Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus,**37** sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

1. Describe your first experience stepping into a new church. What questions did you feel were important for you in deciding if it was place you could call home? Why do people use the phrase "church home”?

**Church Growth**:

**Acts 9:13** But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem.**14** And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name."**15** But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.**16** For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

1. Is church growth important? How can church growth be positive and negative?
2. Is persecution necessary for the Church to grow? How is persecution played out in 2017 Dallas?

**Church Planting**:

Tim Keller quote :“The planting of new congregations is the single most crucial strategy for (1) the numerical growth of the body of Christ in a city and (2) the continual corporate renewal and revival of existing churches in a city. Nothing else – not crusades, outreach programs, parachurch ministries, growing megachurches, congregation consulting, nor church renewal processes – will have the consistent impact of dynamic, extensive church planting.  This is an eyebrow-raising statement, but to those who have done any study at all, it is not even controversial.”

**Acts 11:19** Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews.**20** But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus.**21** And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.**22** The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.**23** When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose,**24** for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.**25** So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,**26** and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

From that point forward the church would be a people being sent out. They were hearing the call to go.

1. Is Church planting a biblical idea? How have you seen church planting be healthy and not healthy?
2. What does it mean for an established church to operate as a church plant? How would that practically look?

