

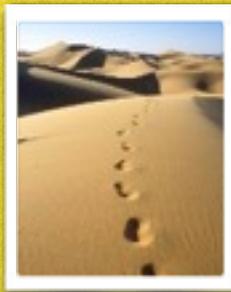
# COMMITTEE STUDY

## Opening Prayer:

Holy God, bless us in our time together  
 so that we will be doing your will  
 in everything we do.  
 Help us to put aside our pride and ego  
 that seeks only what we want,  
 so that we can be filled with your Spirit  
 that leads us to want what you want.  
 Hear us in silence  
 as we center ourselves in you,  
 and ask you to guide us this evening...

## Erwin McManus, *An Unstoppable Force*

The contemporary church has chosen [the same course as our culture]. We have chosen standardization over uniqueness. We have chosen predictability over surprise. And without realizing it, to our own regret, we have chosen comfort and convenience over servanthood and sacrifice... The church is seen as the religious equivalent of IBM or Microsoft. If the church is not running well, then the solutions clearly lie in the best business practices available. The pastor becomes CEO, and the success of the church is in the ability to move from a mom and pop business to a conglomerate.



And Robert's Rules of Order becomes the guiding text rather than the pattern of the apostolic church

The problem is that we treat the church as an organization instead of an organism. Even an elementary reading of the New Testament would make it clear that the church is the body of Christ. The church in her essence is a living system. Whenever we see the church through the template of an organization we begin creating an institution. When we relate to the church as an organism, we begin to awaken the apostolic ethos, which unleashes the movement of God.

## QUESTIONS:

- **What thoughts stand out to you in this passage?**
- **What does this passage say about how we come to know God?**
- **What does it say about leading a church?**

