



## **The Master's Plan for the Church**

*John F. MacArthur Jr.*

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## **The Master's Plan for the Church** John F. MacArthur Jr.

It is absolutely essential that a church perceive itself as an institution for the glory of God. And to do that, claims John MacArthur, the local church must adhere unfalteringly to biblical leadership principles. Christ never intended church leadership to be earned by seniority, purchased with money, or inherited through family ties. He never compared church leaders to governing monarchs, but rather to humble shepherds. Not to slick celebrities, but to laboring servants. Drawing from some of the best-received material on church leadership, John MacArthur guides the church with crucial, effective lessons in leadership. This book is valuable not only for pastors and elders, but for anyone else who wants the church to be what God intended it to be.

## **The Master's Plan for the Church Details**

Date : Published May 9th 1991 by Moody Publishers

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# **From Reader Review The Master's Plan for the Church for online ebook**

## **Jamie says**

The appendices were the most helpful part.

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## **Brent Osterberg says**

A valuable book that captures the high calling of pastoral ministry and the specifics of biblical church life. Its stand-out appeal is MacArthur's sobering call for pastors to be their congregation's examples of morality and devotion to Christ.

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## **Michael Dionne says**

Excellent, important, succinct content, but weakened at times by the stilted, monotone writing style that normally accompanied MacArthur's books.

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## **Jason Vallicott says**

Few books cover such a vast topic so thoroughly with such efficient economy of words. Profitable read for laymen and church leader alike.

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## **Abbie says**

Done. Finally. Probably not going back to this book. I really enjoyed the first four chapters and then it felt a bit repetitive to me after that. A lot of good nuggets in the later chapters, but I had a hard time finding them for all the repetition. Also, J Mac uses a lot of contractions and less flowery language, which bothers me, for some reason, in a theological book.

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## **Jimmy says**

This book answers the question of what is the church and how to do church. The strength of the book is that it sticks to the Scripture for the answer. It's important that if the church is God's institution, one must consider first what God has revealed His will from His Word before any other consideration. The author, John MacArthur, has a reputation of being a solid expositional Bible preacher who desires to be faithful to the Word of God in his teaching. This work is a fine example of him applying it to the question of the church. Yet the book is not a dry academic exercise: I felt that among all of MacArthur's work, this one

seems to me to be the most pastoral. There are bits and pieces of information given throughout the book that gave a window of the life of Grace Community Church, the church where MacArthur has pastored for over forty years. It was also an encouraging work for me to read as a Pastor who desires to please God in how I lead the church. Other members of the church will benefit from reading it as well.

The book is divided into three parts followed by the appendixes. Part one of the book explains the anatomy of the church in terms of the illustration of a human body, with a chapter on the skeletal structure, then one on the internal system, the muscle and the head of the church. Part two looks at the dynamic of the church. Among the chapters I appreciated in this section is MacArthur's look at the epistles to the Thessalonians for a biblical model of doing church and the chapter on the marks of an effective church. Chapter thirteen has a wonderful section on the shepherd and the sheep. It is one of the most detailed explanations about sheep I have found in my reading and it certainly illuminates the Bible's motif of sheep/shepherd. It's clear John MacArthur has done his homework. Finally, part three looks at the qualities of an excellent servant with three chapters.

The bulk of the appendixes is devoted to the topic of Elders and Deacons of the Church. John MacArthur puts a lot of emphasis on the moral and spiritual qualification of the leaders of the church (Elders, Pastors, Deacons) and rightly so, since this is the emphasis in the New Testament. The appendix on church discipline and restoring a believer is one that the church sorely needs to understand and apply today. If I have one minor criticism of the book it comes from the observation that the appendix makes up nearly half of the book. Maybe it's better that the publishers call them chapters instead of appendixes given how some of them are longer than the chapters? Excellent work.

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### **Craig says**

Excellent ecclesiology book. His chapter on the requirements for elders and deacons are especially helpful, and provocative.

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### **Barry says**

I really appreciate Mr. MacArthur's commitment to preaching the Word of God and for encouraging others to do the same. He is not afraid to buck the trends, and I think this is exactly what the church in general needs more of. You can call him old-fashioned or you can call him conservative, but his encouragement to preach and teach and live by the Bible is a welcomed relief from the modern trends that would have you question Biblical fundamentals and foundations. Mr. MacArthur's review of God's plan for the church is refreshing, indeed.

With all the praise, why not 5 stars? For one, it's the constant plugging of his church. I understand that it is easier (and safer) to write about your own church, as opposed to someone else's church, but still, the plugging got annoying after some time. I don't believe he intended to hold up his own church as a perfect example, but it sure felt that way after a while.

Despite the chest-thumping, this book is well worth the read and might help to invigorate church leadership if they take Mr. MacArthur's advice.

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### **Jonathan Klimek says**

Excellent book about the church.

A book that every Christian needs to read. I highly recommend that every church encourage each of their members to read this book. Every Christian and church leader needs to read this book to have a comprehensive understanding of the church.

This is an excellent resource to work through in a mid-week Bible study context (provided all your members faithfully attend Bible study) or in a Bible hour after the main church service. Either way, encourage member in your care to read this book

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### **Babajide Ajayi says**

Encouraging book. It takes you to the scripture to give answers to the leadership and congregational challenges of the church today.

It focuses on the bible as the source of information on the life of the church. It is a reference material that needs to be read by those who want their churches to conform to the desire of the Master.

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### **Alan Yau says**

This is my second time reading this book, and I still think that it is a solid read on what the church is and how it should function.

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### **Shaun Marksbury says**

This text is for those looking for a detailed discussion of what God's Word says deacons and elders. MacArthur also highlights the importance of expository preaching in a biblical church. A number of appendices provide the reader with even more, including a FAQ on elders and deacons. Excellent as always, and highly recommended.

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### **Luis Alberto says**

Como la iglesia esta pensada e ideada por Dios desde la perspectiva bíblica. Desde el gobierno, y sus "ciudadanos", como cada uno es parte integral de la iglesia, y no solo integral sino activa. Respuestas a muchos interrogantes actuales sobre diáconos, ancianos, pastores. Un buen libro.

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