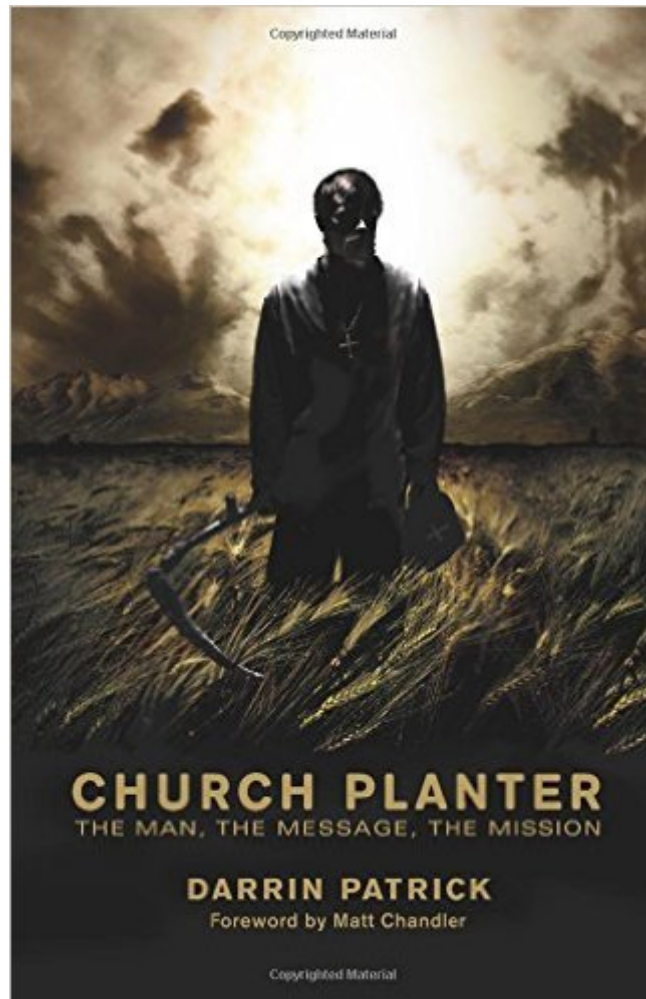


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# Church Planter: The Man, The Message, The Mission



## Synopsis

Much of what is written about church planting aims at methodology and strategy for facing such challenges, but specific strategies do not apply to every context. What lies deeper, at the heart of every church plant? The most critical human component of every church plant is the planter. Darrin Patrick, vice president of the Acts 29 Church Planting Network, looks at what Scripture teaches about this man's character, his teaching, and the aim of his church. Offering guidance and wisdom from years of experience, Patrick reminds us that ultimately no church will succeed apart from a man with a message who leads a church on a mission. This book is for every Christian leader. *Church Planter* is an essential resource for those considering planting a church or already in such a plant, and maybe even more important for those leading an established church. It has wide-ranging application for elders and leadership teams seeking to better understand how the gospel must take root in their church. Avoiding an over-emphasis on particular models or methods, Patrick lays out biblical principles and sound wisdom as he urges the church to return to biblical criteria for determining the man, the message, and the mission God uses to build his church.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The church planting varsity league of the 21st century, Acts 29, has finally released their first book on church planting: *Church Planter* by Darrin Patrick. In particular, Patrick's work is about raising the bar for ban's (boy+man=ban) to stop merely being humans with male plumbing, but men who are

defined by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The subtitle of the book gives away its three sections: The Man, The Message, The Mission. Under "The Man" Patrick spends a chapter on each the seven characteristics of what a man should be: Rescued, Called, Qualified, Dependent, Skilled, Shepherding, Determined. Under "The Message" he says that a man's message should be The Historical, Salvation-Accomplishing, Christ-Centered, Sin-Exposing, Idol-Shattering Message, with a chapter on each aspect. In section three, he talks about how the heart of a man's mission is compassion, the house of the mission is the church, the how of his mission is contextualization, the hands of his mission are care, and the hope of his mission is city transformation. Needless to say, Patrick covers a wide range of material in this book that lands at a mere 238 pages. Main Review At the center of this book beats a heart centered on Jesus Christ and him crucified. This got me excited about the book. At no point does Patrick slip into the all too easy vein of moralistic guilt. Darrin Patrick is a pastor, a pastor who loves Jesus, and you get the sense through the book that Patrick wants us to know the power of King Jesus as it relates to the call of some to plant churches. He wants what God wants, what the Bible clearly calls men to (if they should so choose to let the Bible speak for itself): men who know the power of Christ to rescue them from sin and call them into a life with God.

This was a better book than what I had expected. I first saw some rave reviews online for this particular book by Darrin Patrick when I was just released and I didn't think much about it at that time. I thought that such a hype that soon would be over. However, after seeing there was a great kindle deal on this book, I thought why not read it myself, and boy did I enjoy reading this book. This book is separated into 3 major portions, the man, the message and the mission. Simply put, it talks about who is the kind of person God calls to be a church planter, how should a church planter accomplish this task, and what is the church planter's mission? In the first part, Patrick goes to the focus of this book, the person himself, what kind of man should a church planter be? Patrick painstakingly goes through each characteristics of what kind of man God demands for this crucial task. I feel that this is the best part of the book, not only was this section thought provoking, it was meant for readers (who most likely are geared towards this direction) to search their hearts thoroughly before God. At the end of each chapter there are also many reflective questions which really helped me think through what I had learned from each chapter and examining my life based on what I've learnt. In the 2nd part, which is essentially about preaching, talks about what kind of message must a church planter preach? Patrick immediately narrows it down to the expository, salvation-historical, Christ-centred preaching and quickly show from the bible these truths and

explains each of them lucidly.

"[W]e have a cultural crisis and a theological one," writes Darrin Patrick in *Church Planter: The Man, the Message, the Mission*. "We live in a world full of males who have prolonged their adolescence. They are neither boys nor men. They live, suspended as it were, between childhood and adulthood, between growing up and being grown-ups. . . . This kind of male is everywhere, including the church and even, frighteningly, vocational ministry." (p. 9). In short, we have a man crisis. Modern society shuns the traditional role of the man as the head of the home, the breadwinner and the spiritual leader of the family. Advertising and entertainment show the man as the oafish buffoon, Mom's "other child." Emasculated, men have abdicated their responsibilities and escaped into the fleeting pleasures of hobbies, video games and pornography. They are neither men nor boys. They are "Bans," a hybrid of both a boy and man. They're in our communities, our churches, our workplaces, and our families. Ban needs godly men and women to show him there is more to life than he is currently experiencing. Ban needs to be more than just a male. He needs to be becoming God's man who is being transformed by God's gospel message and is wholeheartedly pursuing God's mission. (p. 18) That's why Patrick, the pastor of The Journey Church in St. Louis and vice-president of the Acts 29 Church Planting Network, wrote *Church Planter*. In its pages, Patrick offers sound advice and biblical wisdom as he challenges prospective church planters, longtime pastors and the average churchman alike to be God's man armed with God's message and on God's mission. So what kind of man does it take to plant a church? What kind of man does the church need to carry out its mission?

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