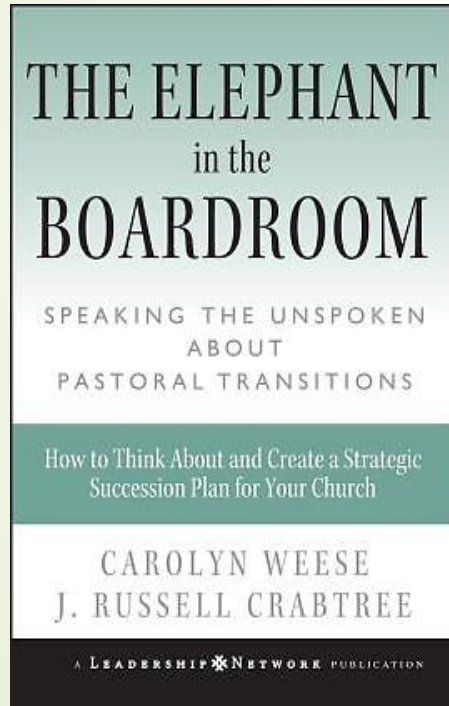


# I Corinthians 12-13



# “More Excellent Way”



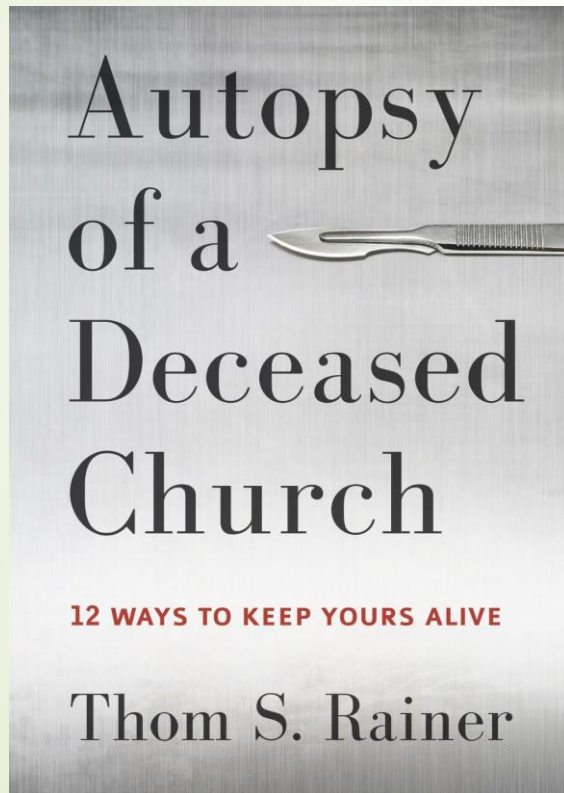
**Management specialists argue that 85% of all employee failures are attributable to deficiencies in the system.”**

# Harry Truman



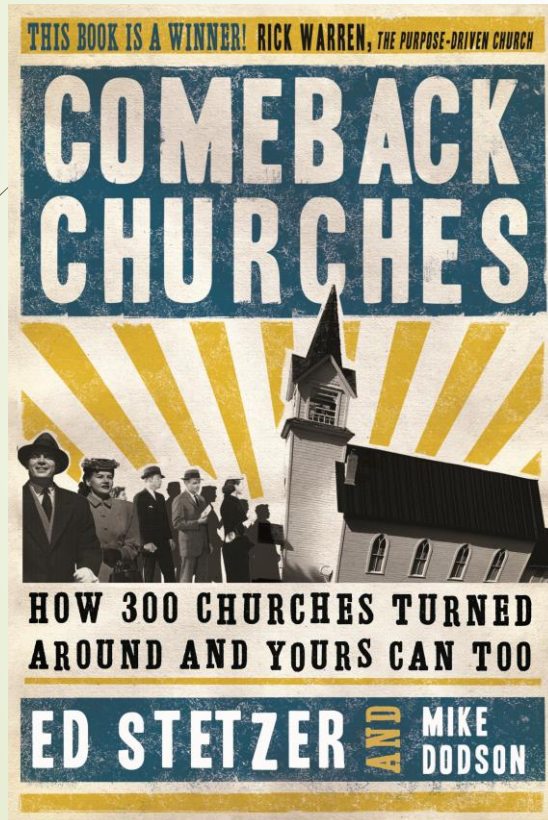
A large, 3D-rendered red graphic of the number "#1" with a reflection effect below it, set against a white background.

#1



“More than any one item, dying churches focused on their own needs instead of others. They looked inwardly instead of outwardly. Their highest priorities were the way they’ve always done.”

# 90%



“Ninety percent of heart patients who are told to change or die, choose death over change. Our churches and leaders seem to be no different, the vast majority of time people and churches choose death over change.”



# I Corinthians 12:12-15 (JBP)

As the human body, which has many parts, is a unity, and those parts, despite their multiplicity, constitute one single body, so it is with the body of Christ. For we were all baptized by the Spirit into one body, whether we were Jews, Gentiles, slaves or free men, and we have all had experience of the same Spirit. Now the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand I don't belong to the body," does that alter the fact that the foot is a part of the body?

# I Corinthians 12:16-20 (JBP)

Of if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye I don’t belong to the body,” does that mean that the ear really is no part of the body? After all, if the body were all one eye, for example, where would be the sense of hearing? Or if it were all one ear, where would be the sense of smell? But God has arranged all the parts in the one body according to his design. For if everything were concentrated in one part, how could there be a body at all? The fact is there are many parts, but only one body.

# 1 Corinthians 12:21-24 (JBP)

So that the eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” nor, again, can the head say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” On the contrary, those parts of the body which have no obvious function are the more essential to health: and to those parts of the body which seem to us to be less deserving of notice we have to allow the highest honor of function. The parts which do not look beautiful have a deeper beauty in the work they do, while the parts which look beautiful may not be at all essential to life! But God has harmonized the whole body by giving importance of function to the parts which lack apparent importance.



# 1 Corinthians 12:25-28 (JBP)

That the body should work together as a whole with all the members in sympathetic relationship with one another. So it happens that if one member suffers all the other members suffer with it, and if one member is honored all the members share a common joy. Now you are together the body of Christ, and individually you are members of him. And in his Church God has appointed first some to be his messengers, secondly, some to be preachers of power, thirdly teachers. After them he has appointed workers of spiritual power, men with the gift of healing, helpers, organizers and those with the gift of speaking in “tongues”.



# I Corinthians 12:29-31 (JBP)

As we look at the body of Christ do we find all are his messengers, all are preachers, or all teachers? Do we find all wielders of spiritual power, all able to heal, all able to speak with tongues, or all able to interpret the tongues? No, we find God's distribution of gifts is on the same principles of harmony that he has shown in the human body. You should set your hearts on the highest spiritual gifts, but I will show you what is the highest way of all.

# Musical Gifts



# Dedicated Members

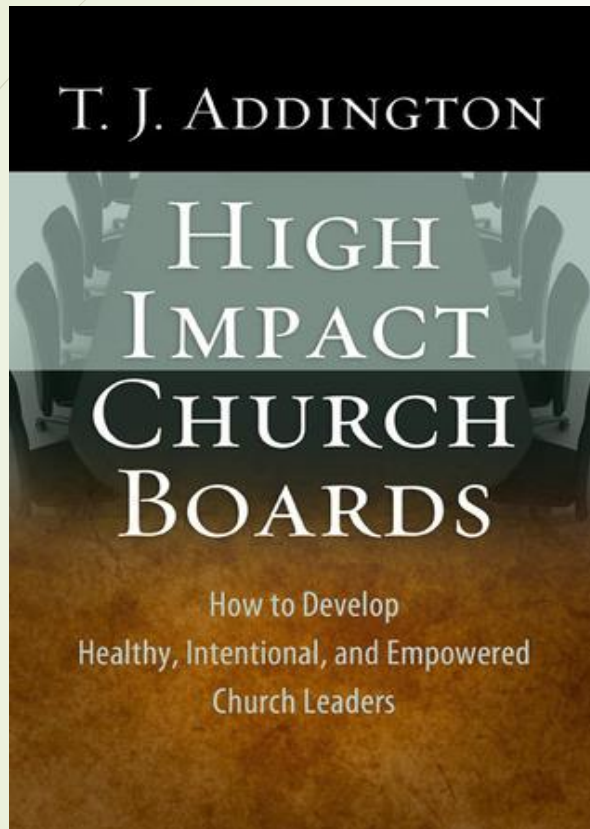


# Partisanship & Cliques



# Power Struggles





**“Mistrust Breeds Control”**

**“Control Feeds Mistrust”**

# A More Excellent Way

1 Corinthians 13



LOVE

When Partisanship And Power Struggles  
Exist, The System Is Dysfunctional. The  
System Works Against Both The Pastor  
And The Church.





# 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (JBP)

If I speak with the eloquence of men and of angels, but have no love, I become no more than blaring brass or crashing cymbal. If I have the gift of foretelling the future and hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but the very secrets of God, and if I also have that absolute faith which can move mountains, but have no love, I amount to nothing at all. If I dispose of all that I possess, yes, even if I give my own body to be burned, but have no love, I achieve precisely nothing.



# 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (JBP)

This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience—it looks for a way of being constructive. It is not possessive: it is neither anxious to impress nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance. Love has good manners and does not pursue selfish advantage. It is not touchy. It does not keep account of evil or gloat over the wickedness of other people. On the contrary, it is glad with all good men when truth prevails. Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope.



# 1 Corinthians 13:8a; 13 (JBP)

It can outlast anything. It is, in fact, the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen.

In this life we have three great lasting qualities—faith, hope and love. But the greatest of them is love.