

ECCLESIOLOGY:

Lesson 05

The Leadership of the Church

A suggested structure for study:

- I. The principles for the study of the Church
 - A. Word study
 - B. Definition
 - C. Systematic considerations
- II. The concept of the Church
 - A. The origin of the Church
 - B. The distinction of the Church
 - C. The universal Church
 - D. The local Church
 - E. The figures of the Church
- III. The function of the Church
 - A. The purpose
 - B. The leadership
 - C. The organization
 - D. The ordinances
 - E. The Ministry
- IV. The Church in time
 - A. The Church past (Church history)
 - B. The Church present
 - C. The Church future

Outline:

II. The concept of the Church

- The origin of the Church
- The distinction of the Church
- The figures of the Church

The Distinction of the Church:

- The distinction of the “local” and “universal” church
- The distinction of Israel and the Church

The Figures of the Church that especially
instruct us concerning “one another”:

- The Family, 1 Timothy 5:1-2; 6:2; 2 Thess. 3:6, 15
- The Body, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

The Church As A Family:

- Responsibilities to Each Other...
 - ✓ Recognize each other as brothers and sisters.
 - ✓ Love each other as brothers and sisters...
 - ✓ Honor each other as brothers and sisters
 - ✓ Live in unity with each other as brothers and sisters.

The Church As A Family:

- Responsibilities to Each Other...
 - ✓ Serve each other as brothers and sisters.
 - ✓ Meet one another's needs as brothers and sisters
 - ✓ Refresh one another's hearts as brothers and sisters

The Church As A Body (1 Cor. 12:12-27) Responsibilities to Each Other...

- ✓ Recognize that this is God's doing...God's design, 12:11, 13, 18.
- ✓ Recognize our interdependence with one another, 14.
- ✓ Recognize that YOU are important, 15-20.

The Church As A Body (1 Cor. 12:12-27) Responsibilities to Each Other...

- ✓ Recognize that everyone else is important, too!, 21-24
- ✓ The goal is that there be **NO DIVISION**, 25.
- ✓ Care for and honor one another, 25-26.
- ✓ Suffer and honor...together!, 26.

The Purpose of the Church – Acts 2:42

“And they were continually devoting themselves to...

- The Apostles' Teaching
- Fellowship
- The Breaking of The Bread
- Prayer

A Healthy church will be devoted to all 4!

The Church's Spiritual Leaders...

Their Titles:

- “Elders”: Presbuteros ⇒ “Spiritual Maturity” and “Respect”
- “Overseers”
 (“Bishops”): Episcopos ⇒ “Authority and Leadership.”
- Pastor/Shepherd: ⇒ “Function and ministry.”

The Church's Spiritual Leaders...

Passages which show the
interchangeability of the 3 titles:

- Acts 20:17, 28
- Titus 1:5, 7
- 1 Peter 5:1-3

The Church's Spiritual Leaders...

Duties of the Elders/Overseers/Pastors:

- “Shepherd” the flock, 1 Peter 5:2; Acts 20:28...protect them!, vv. 29-31
- Guide through your example, 1 Peter 5:3; 1 Timothy 4:12, 15-16
- Teach the Word!, 2 Tim. 4:1-5; 1 Tim. 3:2; 4:11, 13, 16.

The Church's Spiritual Leaders...

Their Identification/Selection:

No "Prescription"...Only Illustration and Example

- Appointed by Apostles, Acts 14:23.
- Appointed by Apostolic Delegates, Titus 1:5-6.
- Appointed by a local church, based on an evaluation of qualifications, I Timothy 3:1ff, similar to the principle of Acts 6:1-7, esp. v. 3-5.

The Church's Spiritual Leaders...

Their Distinction:

1 Timothy 5:17 makes it clear that there may be distinctions among the elders, according to

- Diligence,
- Giftedness and ability,
- and Availability.

Deacons

- “Mentioned,” Philippians 1:1
- “Qualified,” I Timothy 3:8-12
- “Prototype,” Acts 6:1-7.

“Cognate Words”

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SERVE	Verb	

“Cognate Words”

SERVE	Verb	
SERVICE	Action	

“Cognate Words”

SERVE	Verb	
SERVICE	Action	
SERVANT	Person	

“Cognate Words”

SERVE	Verb	Diakoneō
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“Cognate Words”

SERVE	Verb	Diakoneō
SERVICE	Action	Diakonia
SERVANT	Person	Diakonos

Deacon

Technically, the guys in Acts 6 are never called “Deacons,” but...they “Deak!”

So Deacons serve in the area
of the physical and material needs,
to free the elders to serve
in the area of the spiritual needs...
prayer, study, teaching, discipleship.

“...but speaking the truth in love,
we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him
who is the head, *even* Christ,
from whom the whole body, being fitted and
held together by what every joint supplies,
according to the proper working
of each individual part,
causes the growth of the body
for the building up of itself in love.”

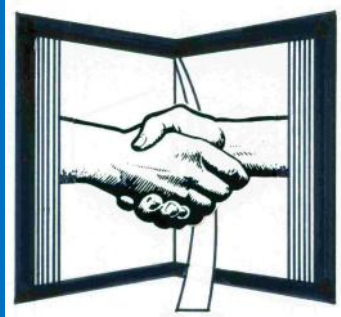
The Church's Spiritual Leaders...

Responsibilities TO the Elders...

- Appreciate them, 1 Thess. 4:12.
- Esteem them very highly, 1 Thess. 4:13
- Love them, 1 Thess. 4:13.
- Live in peace with one another!, 1 Thess. 4:13
- Honor them, 1 Tim. 5:17
- Submit to them and obey them, 1 Peter 5:5;
Hebrews 13:7, 17

“The word of God kept on spreading;
and the number of the disciples
continued to increase greatly
in Jerusalem,
and a great many of the priests
were becoming obedient to the faith.”

Acts 6:7



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