

## What is Biblical Church Government? Lesson 6 – Qualified Leadership – Part 1

### Introduction:

- In the church, God calls holy people to \_\_\_\_\_ as leaders under the authority of Jesus Christ.
- There are two ideas that help us understand the Biblical pattern of church leadership:
  - The Biblical pattern for church leadership is to have a \_\_\_\_\_ of leaders.
  - The Biblical pattern for church leadership is to have a group of \_\_\_\_\_ leaders.

1. The importance of the \_\_\_\_\_ of church leaders.

A. The New Testament lists two basic \_\_\_\_\_ for church leaders.

- Deacons are appointed for the primary purpose of serving the \_\_\_\_\_ needs of the church, so that the elders could focus on the spiritual needs of the church.

***Acts 6.2–4*** And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “***It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.***”

- Elders are given the responsibilities of \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures, praying, and \_\_\_\_\_ the members of the church.
- The New Testament uses the terms Elder, Overseer, and Pastor as \_\_\_\_\_ terms to refer to the same office.

***Acts 20.17*** Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the ***elders*** of the church to come to him.

***Acts 20.28*** Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you ***overseers***, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

**Titus 1.5** *This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint **elders** in every town as I directed you—*

**Titus 1.7** *For an **overseer**, as God’s steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain,*

**Eph 4.11–12** *And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the **shepherds and teachers**, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,*

**B. A \_\_\_\_\_ understanding of the term “elder”.**

- The elders of Israel were charged with the responsibility of \_\_\_\_\_ making, by applying wisdom to the lives of the people in resolving conflicts, giving direction, and generally overseeing the details of an orderly society.

**Deut 1.9–13** *“At that time I said to you, ‘**I am not able to bear you by myself.** 10 The LORD your God has multiplied you, and behold, you are today as numerous as the stars of heaven. 11 May the LORD, the God of your fathers, make you a thousand times as many as you are and bless you, as he has promised you! 12 **How can I bear by myself the weight and burden of you and your strife?** 13 Choose for your tribes wise, understanding, and experienced men, **and I will appoint them as your heads.**’*

- The elders of Israel led the Passover and perhaps other elements of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Exodus 12.21** *Then Moses called all **the elders of Israel** and said to them, “Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb.*

- The elders of Israel were specifically involved in the \_\_\_\_\_ of cities as well as the nation.

**1 Sam 16.4** *Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. **The elders of the city** came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?”*

**1 Sam 30.26** *When David came to Ziklag, he sent part of the spoil to his friends, **the elders of Judah**, saying, “Here is a present for you from the spoil of the enemies of the Lord.”*

**C. \_\_\_\_\_ leaders are found in each office of elder and deacon.**

- When elders were appointed in the New Testament, the word “elders” was always used in its \_\_\_\_\_ form.

**Acts 14.23** *And when they had appointed **elders** for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.*

**Titus 1.5** *This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint **elders** in every town as I directed you—*

**James 5.14** *Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.*

- **Multiple leaders serve as a check and balance with each other to avoid an \_\_\_\_\_ of the authority granted to the elders.**

**1 Pet 5.2–3** *shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.*

- **The Lord established a pattern of having multiple elders in order to protect the \_\_\_\_\_ from having elders who abuse their authority, and who can hold each other accountable to be \_\_\_\_\_ leaders.**
- **The Lord established a pattern of having multiple elders in order to protect the \_\_\_\_\_ from having more burdens than they can bear, and to help distribute the workload of ministry.**
- **All elders are to be \_\_\_\_\_ in authority, but there may be leaders among equals.**

**1 Tim 5.17** *Let the **elders** who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.*

- **The pastor who preaches and teaches is one of the elders and is equally \_\_\_\_\_ to the other elders.**
- **The preaching pastor usually has greater \_\_\_\_\_ with the congregation because his primary role in the church is to teach and apply the Scriptures to the lives of the members.**
- **However, having multiple elders \_\_\_\_\_ against any single ruler taking over a congregation.**

**2. The importance of the \_\_\_\_\_ of church leaders.**

**A. Leaders in the church must be \_\_\_\_\_ people.**

**1 Tim 3.2a** Therefore an overseer must be **above reproach**,

- The quality that makes someone qualified to be a leader is that they have a pattern of life that set them apart as \_\_\_\_\_.

**B. Leadership development takes \_\_\_\_\_.**

**1 Tim 3.6** He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil.

- The reason churches shouldn't put immature Christians into leadership is because they have not \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ to be able to lead effectively.

**3. The \_\_\_\_\_ for qualified leaders.**

- The most common \_\_\_\_\_ made by churches that are eager to appoint more elders is to appoint biblically unqualified men.

**1 Tim 3.1–7** The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

- Both elders and deacons must first be \_\_\_\_\_ to ensure that they meet the list of qualifications.

**1 Tim 3.10** And let **them also be tested first**; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless.

**Titus 1.5–9** This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— 6 if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. 7 For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, 8 but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. 9 He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

A. Elders are stewards who are \_\_\_\_\_ with God's most costly possessions: His Word and His people.

**1 Th 2.4** *but just as we have been approved by God to be **entrusted with the gospel**, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.*

**2 Tim 1.13–14** *Follow **the pattern of the sound words** that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 14 By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, **guard the good deposit entrusted to you.***

**Acts 20.28** *Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, **to care for the church of God**, which he obtained with his own blood.*

B. Leaders are to be \_\_\_\_\_ of the holiness that God requires of all Christians.

**Phil 2.15** *that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,*

• Whatever the leaders are, the people will \_\_\_\_\_!

**Hosea 4.9** *And it shall be like people, like priest;  
I will punish them for their ways  
and repay them for their deeds.*

**Luke 6.40** *A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will **be like his teacher.***

• Biblical history demonstrates that people will seldom rise above the spiritual level of their \_\_\_\_\_.

C. The church must be \_\_\_\_\_ from unfit leaders.

• The Biblical qualifications for church leadership are given by God to protect the congregation from \_\_\_\_\_ leaders.

Conclusion:

• Just like the Old Testament people of God, the New Testament people of God are also to be led by \_\_\_\_\_.

• There were always \_\_\_\_\_ elders leading in the New Testament church.

- **Because spiritual leadership is a matter of such great \_\_\_\_\_, we must ensure that church leaders meet the clear qualifications given in the New Testament for those who would serve as elders and deacons.**