

**Pastor Grant Van Leuven PECA Sermon Outline on Heb. 5:1-6, Rom. 15:15-16, WLC 158, Sept. 28, 2014**

***Intro:***

We've been doing it wrong. Preaching of Word only to be by men especially gifted, trained, ordained to do so. Whether in open air or in the assembly of the saints, only pastors are to preach: READ WLC Q&A 158

EP: Any priest of God, whether Aaron or Christ Himself, must be officially called to the formal office of serving God's people; Christ now ministering from heaven, He officially calls only pastors to perform the sacred worship duties on earth on His behalf, which are formally connected to the OT priesthood.

Ps. 40:9 (Hebrews 10:5-7): Jesus is the One preaching (see also Psalm 22:22, 25 in Heb. 2:12). But how? Through ministers whom He calls through His Church according to the qualifications of His Word. No one should try and take/do a job for which they are not qualified, have not been hired, and have not been officially trained and installed. The same goes for how Jesus runs His Church. According to Jesus ...

HP: *Only preachers preach.*

***Move 1: Your preacher must be qualified by the Church according to God's Word.***

Explain: LC: "The word of God is to be preached only by such as are sufficiently gifted ...":

- See 1 Tim. 3:1ff/Titus 1:7ff for qualifications of "bishop" (ἐπίσκοπος, not πρεσβύτερος, which is more general). "Apt to teach" not required of elders that rule. Especially worth noting, no women.
- Apt to teach: must be tested by the instituted Church to qualify if he is ready for its public ministry.
- Seminary Training: 3 years (had to pass tests, including sermons (which had to be approved by prof. each step of process). Presbytery: 15 exams by elders who must "sustain". I had four "outward calls" that led me to seminary to test if I had the inward call and ability. At seminary, some men realized they didn't have the call; others were told they didn't. Important to protect the church from men incapable of doing the job, which is a hard job requiring a wide range of training, skills, gifts.
- Disciples trained with Jesus for three years after being called, and then were breathed on/sent. Jesus went through 30 years of training.

Illustrate: I once asked to step down to a lesser position, just wasn't experienced enough yet. 80 % of small business fail in first year: main reason, have qualities/skills/training to job, but not to run a business.

Apply: Seminary: we can't teach you everything, but can give you the tools to do the work, keep learning. Just like any formal place of training or apprenticeship, only those who have gone have the tools and know how to best use them. Recent Presby meeting, elder Renner said "This is why we have a pastor."

Transition: Pastor's training/job to know issues, past/present, and wrestle with them. More: his calling.

***Move 2: Your preacher must be called by God through His Church to be a pastor.***

Explain: LC: "The word of God is to be preached only by such as are ... also duly approved and called to that office.": this is only NT pastors/ministers as connected to OT priests:

- Confessional Context:
  - Index for WCF "total package" on "Preaching of the word a part of the ordinary worship of God" cites WLC 158 and reads, "None are to preach but ministers of the gospel".
  - Related to LC 156 (not all read in worship) and LC 169 (only ministers perform the Lord's Supper).
  - WCF 27:4: on only two sacraments, "... neither of which may be dispensed by any but by a minister of the Word lawfully ordained."
  - Read "The Directory for the Public Worship of God" (all aspects by pastor only) and "The Form of

Presbyterial Church Government” and their Scripture proofs (originally all one package). Clearly connect pastors in NT to priests in OT (for worship duties). Read *Order in the Offices: Essays Defining the Role of Church Officers* (Ed. Mark Brown).

- 1 Tim. 5:17: *Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.* All pastors are elders, but not all elders are pastors. W. Divines had to actually argue whether there was an office of ruling elder (Scots won the day; W. Spear’s, *Covenanted Uniformity in Religion: The Influence of the Scottish Commissioners on the Ecclesiology of the Westminster Assembly*: focuses on production of Form of Presby Govt.).
- Related to Aaron blessing (God gave for priests to pronounce upon people in Num. 6:23-26)
- Elders in OT ruled. Elders in NT rule. Priests in OT ruled too, but only they read/taught Word in formal worship. Pastors rule too, but only they read/teach Word in public assembly.
- *And I will also take of them for priests and for Levites, saith the LORD.* (Isa 66:21) Key verse Reformers understood as prophecy re: NT times/pastors in Church. Mt. 23:34 shows connection.
- Scriptural Connection of OT Priests and NT Pastors:
  - Hebrews 5:1-6
    - Vs. 1: Must be taken (not take) into office of service on behalf of people (see also vs. 3) must be set/put in charge/constituted for God (formal charge to official office).
    - Vss. 4-6, All priests must be formally called to their office by God, just like Aaron and Jesus, neither of which called themselves to be priests (representing the people before God) (Jesus, eternally, Ps. 2:7 and Ps 110:4, and thus sent). Jesus’ baptism was like the priests in OT: anointing to office. Now back in heaven, He sends others to do the sacred service of the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments (Pastor’s “title” in ordination vows).
    - *Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.* (John 20:21). Officers are sent in official capacity (“Apostle”: sent one).
  - Overlap with Romans 15:15-16 (Calvin: “The priesthood of the Christian pastor”):
    - Vs. 15: Paul was called by God. Gracious, because he had been killing Christians. So he often highlights “called by God/Christ” in his epistles to establish official legitimacy of service.
    - Vs. 16: “offering”: to present or offer a sacrifice as the work of a priest. Noun form of the Greek word here is the same word in verb form in Heb. 5:1 and 3 (there clearly priestly).
    - Verse 16, “minister” is not typical (διάκονος or δούλος: servant, sometimes “deacon”), but λειτουργὸν, which means a servant minister with special reference of accountability before God; a public, official ministry of holy things as a priest of offerings and sacrifices. Where we get “liturgy”. Used in Heb. 8:2 of Christ as the “**minister** of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle”
    - Verse 16, word for “ministering” Gospel of God is not the normal Greek word: **ἱεουργοῦντα**, which means to perform a holy service acting as a priest. Based on the root word for priest.
    - Heb. 5:1-6 and Rom. 15:15-16 make it clear (especially in Greek) that pastors are NT priests.

Illustrate: Someone at work comes in and sits down behind CEO’s seat. “Who made you boss?” would be extremely relevant. President of USA is not officially until publicly sworn into office. Apostles, pastors, elders, deacons all called and ordained (pastor by laying on of hands) formally by church. Each w/ duties.

Apply: Reason you never decided to have ruling elders do the job of the pastor, but prayed for a decade that the Lord would send you a qualified man to be your minister. Not issue of elitism, but humbling doing one’s job and taking all the responsibility that comes with it. “Duty calls”. Why I’m up all night some times, no matter what happened that week. It is my JOB to preach and to do it well as someone who will give account. Just like you have to stay late and get things some times, especially if manager, it is your job. Not issue of right, but responsibility. And letting other people do their job. God wants everything done decently and in order. Elders convinced of this before me (reading *Order in Offices*). R. Renner one who could be the most offended suggested taking his sermons off SermonAudio. May we all have this heart. Elders rule over and on behalf of people. Pastor rules with them on behalf of Presby, and alone leads worship/preaches/administers sacraments.

Other benefit, no pressure on people to do what they may not be gifted to do, nor are called to do. Everyone

has a job, but it doesn't have to be the Pastor's. Free you from pressure to do public speaking. Free elders to rule and not have to be "apt to teach". Hear and embrace: *Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.* (1 Cor. 4:1). *For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.* (Mal 2:7)

Transition: Workplaces that are run well and in order: everyone knows/accepts job duties and does them, and doesn't try and do someone else's job.

### **Conclusion:**

Re: pastors: *Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.* (1 Tim. 5:22)

Warning. Got to point at end of Judges (everyone did what was right in own eyes) where a man hires private Levites to minister in his private temple of idols. Time of Jeroboam (making false worship in false temple in Israel): **1 Kings 13:33** *After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places.* Unqualified, not called by God, not in place supposed to do this.

Result: *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.* (Hosea 4:6)

Let's be Bereans. Let's search the Scriptures and we will see it's true. Let's get it right so we get God's greatest blessing when we do things His way through His appointed means and ordained servants. Many may presume to preach, but if they have not been gifted, trained, and officially called by the Church to do so, simply is not preaching according to Jesus Christ, the High Priest and Preacher in the Assembly of His Saints. Thus, it won't have the same result of a humble, holy people. According to the Word of God, the only rule of faith and life (especially Church life), only preachers should preach. Thus, only preachers actually do preach. The Word is a means of grace, especially the preaching of it. Thus, it is important to recognize God's ordained means of its most effectual delivery unto salvation.

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