

# The Church - 5

## Ministry of the Pastor

### I. TWO NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OFFICES

- A. Deacons - servants
- B. Bishops - overseers

### II. BISHOPS, ELDERS, PASTORS

- A. Basically the same; original text uses these words referring to same person
- B. Acts 20:17-28 - Paul called the elders of the church- "...take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made you Bishops (overseers) to pastor (feed) the church of God."
- C. I Pet. 5:1-2 - "*The elders...pastor (feed) the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight (verb for bishop)...*"
- D. Titus 1:5-7 - "*Ordain elders in every city...for a Bishop must be blameless...*"
- E. Qualifications of elders and bishops same in I Tim. 3 and Titus 1
- F. All ministries of Eph. 4 are categories of elders (elders with various ministries)

### III. MEANINGS OF WORDS

- A. Bishop
  - 1. Episkopos - overseer, superintendent, guardian, or bishop
    - a. Acts 20:28 - overseers
    - b. Phil. 1:1 - bishop and deacons
    - c. I Tim. 3:2 - desires office of bishop
    - d. Tit. 1:7 - Bishop must be blameless
    - e. I Pet. 2:28 - Bishop of soul
  - 2. Episkopeo - verb form of previous word and means exercising the oversight to oversee, to care for, to look at, to take care of (I Pet. 5:2)
- B. Elder
  - 1. Presbuteros - elder, older person, senior
    - a. Forefathers of Israel (faith chapter)
    - b. People of rank who are appointed officials of the people
      - (1) Local councils in cities
      - (2) Sanhedrin
    - c. In NT, leaders raised up and qualified by the Holy Spirit and appointed to have spiritual care of, and to exercise oversight over the churches.
  - 2. Presbuterion - Assembly of aged men, the order of elders
    - a. I Tim. 4:14 (presbytery)
- C. Pastor
  - 1. Used once in King James - (Eph. 4:11)

2. From Greek word poimen which occurs 18 times in NT  
(translated shepherd)
3. Literally means "one who feeds, tends a flock, or keeps sheep"
4. Poimaino - feed; to act as a shepherd
  - a. Acts 20:28
  - b. I Peter 5:2
5. Position of pastor:
  - a. Position of authority
    - (1) Rulership and government involved
    - (2) OT had military and political powers
  - b. Position of service
    - Nourished the flock
    - Furnished pastures
    - Well being of souls
    - Care for and protect
1. Pattern of pastor
  - God is shepherd
  - The Lord is my shepherd
  - When the chief Shepherd shall appear
  - Return to Shepherd and Bishop of soul (I Pet. 2:25)
  - Jesus the good shepherd

#### I. INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BISHOP, ELDER, PASTOR

- A. Elder - speaks of the man
- B. Bishop - speaks of his office
- C. Pastor - speaks of his work

#### II. QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS

- A. Moral
  1. Blameless
  2. Temperate
  3. Sober
  4. Good behavior
  5. Not given to wine
  6. Not a striker (not physical battles)
  7. Not greedy of money
  8. Not a brawler (not be contentious, quarrelsome, argumentative)
  9. Not covetous
  10. Not self-willed (self-pleasing, dominated by self-interest, and inconsiderate of others)
  11. Lover of good
- B. Domestic
  1. Husband of one wife
  2. Hospitable
  3. Rule well own house

- C. Spiritual
  - 1. Able to teach
  - 2. Not novice or young convert
  - 3. Good report from without
  - 4. Just
  - 5. Holy
  - 6. Hold fast the faithful word--not blown by evry wind of doctrine
  - 7. Patient

### III. WORK OF ELDER

- A. Ruling
  - 1. Rom. 12:8
  - 2. I Thes. 5:12-14
  - 3. I Tim. 5:17 - let elders that rule well be counted double honor
  - 4. Heb. 13:17, 24 - obey them that have the rule over you...salute them that have the rule over you.
- B. Shepherding
  - 1. Feed the flock (Acts 20:28)
  - 2. Watch for wolves (Acts 20:29-31)
  - 3. Help the weak (Acts 20:35)
  - 4. Minister to sick (James 5:14-15)
  - 5. Go before the sheep with good example (I Pet. 5:3)

### IV. HONOR OF ELDERS

- A. Know those who are over you (I Thes. 5:12)
- B. Esteem highly (I Thes. 5:13)
- C. Submit to them (Heb. 13:17)
- D. Remember leaders and pray for them (Heb. 13:7; I Thes. 5:25)

### V. PASTOR - SENIOR ELDER

- A. Relationship to elder body
  - 1. Plural leadership
  - 2. Husband ministry
- B. Ministry of Pastor (Ez. 34; Jer. 23)
  - Always reaching out, seeking that which was lost - Luke 15:14
  - Watch for potential trouble
  - Caring for those in need
  - Correction
  - Perfecting of the Body
  - Guarding the flock
  - Praying for the sick
  - Bind up broken
  - Pray for flock constantly
  - Restores the fallen
  - Reproduces other shepherds

I. CAUTIONS TO PASTORS

- A. Must not neglect own spiritual growth
- B. Must not overdrive the sheep

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SHEEP

- Realizing pastor is God's leader and thus God's voice
- Build his spiritual power by praying for him
- Build his reputation by speaking highly of him
- Build his morale by encouraging him
- Build his pulpit power by hearing him
- Build his leadership by cooperating with him
- Follow the Christ he preaches