

Church Under Construction

Introduction to Eldership

I. A Crisis In Leadership

A great crisis of leadership exists in many American churches today. Both the people behind the pulpit and those in front of the pulpit are affected. Tension, intrigue and manipulation are the unfortunate aftermath of this conflict. Our only hope is found in the true biblical structure of church leadership.

II. Following The Blue Prints (Matt. 16:18)

The Lord Jesus said He will build His church. Our assignment is to cooperate with the plans He has made.

III. Mistaken Concepts Of Church Leadership

- A. Monarchical structure is not biblical leadership.
- B. Committee leadership is not biblical.
- C. Democratic rule is not biblical.

IV. The Roots Of New Testament Leadership Design

(Numbers 11:16; Deuteronomy 27:1) In the Old Testament, leadership of the congregation was vested in men known as elders.

V. The New Testament Leadership Design

- A. Eldership is the model. (1 Peter 5:1-4)
- B. A Clergy and laity division is not biblical.
- C. Plurality of leadership is required. (Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:5)
- D. Qualifications must be followed in the selection of elders. (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)
- E. Eldership is a calling. (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:1)

VI. The role of the elders.

- A. Elders protect the flock.
 - 1. They protect by guarding against false teachers. (Acts 20:17, 28-31)
 - 2. They protect by seeking straying sheep. (1 Thessalonians 5:12)
- B. Elders feed the flock.
 - 1. The Scripture is the "food" that causes us to grow. (1 Corinthians 3:2; Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 Peter 2:2)
 - 2. It is required that elders teach the flock.

(1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9-16; John 21:17)

C. Elders lead the flock.

1. Able leadership is important. (1 Timothy 5:17)
2. Qualified leadership is essential. (1 Timothy 3:4,5)

D. Elders offer loving care for the flock.

1. They give themselves to the people. (Acts 20:35)
2. They pray for the people. (James 5:14-15)

See Alexander Strauch's book, *Biblical Eldership*, for an in-depth treatment of this subject.

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Eldership

Dennis Newkirk

Review:

- I. A Crisis In Leadership
- II. Following The Blue Prints (Matt. 16:18)
- III. Mistaken Concepts Of Church Leadership
 - A. Monarchy
 - B. Committee
 - C. Democracy
- IV. The Roots Of New Testament Leadership Design (Numbers 11:16; Deuteronomy 27:1)
- V. The New Testament Leadership Design
 - A. Eldership (1 Peter 5:1-4)
 - B. Absence of Clergy/Laity Split
 - C. Plurality (Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:5)
 - D. Qualifications (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)
 - E. Calling (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:1)

The Role Of Elders

1 Peter 5:1-4

Elders shepherd the flock. (1 Peter 5:1-4)

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