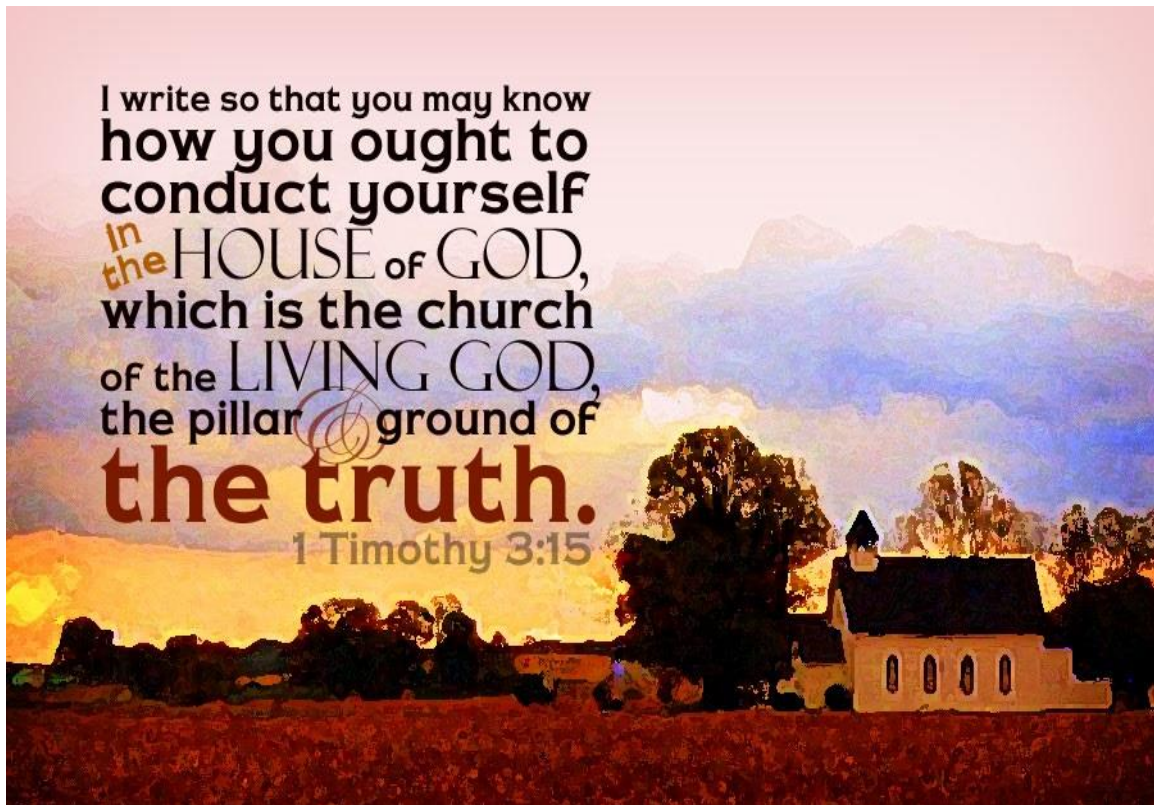


# Leadership in the House of God

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*Doug Kreighbaum*

# Leadership in the House of God

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# Leadership in the House of God

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**Introduction:** Every church is an expression of the House of the Lord in their locality (Rev 1-3). Jesus is concerned with how each local church operates. Paul sent Timothy into the church at Ephesus, and Titus to the churches on the island of Crete to help set them in order. This involved both how they conducted themselves in everyday life, as well as the establishing and functioning of leadership in each local church.

- *Titus 1:5 NASB For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,*
- *1 Timothy 1:3 NASB As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus...*
- *1 Timothy 3:1-15 NASB It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. (2) An overseer, then, must be...15 but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth....*

Over the last 2000 years, many different forms of church leadership have emerged and been handed down to successive generations. We need to examine the various ideas considering God's word and amend patterns and structures to fit God's Biblical patterns.

# Leadership within the Local Church Family

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Many of the present-day patterns of leadership that have been handed down to us contain ideas that drift away from Biblical patterns. The clergy-laity distinction in some circles tends to foster an OT mentality of separation between the special class, “priests,” and the rest of the people. Some modern-day patterns from the Protestant Reformation, the Evangelical/Charismatic movements, the Church Growth Movement with the Mega-CEO leaders, and the anti-institutional movements contain many unhealthy patterns.

## **Wrong approaches towards leadership in God’s House**

The church world tends to fall into two extremes of error regarding leadership: over-glamorizing it or undervaluing it. Both extremes are ditches on a road that we must avoid.

## **Leadership pattern that runs throughout the Bible**

There is an important pattern that runs throughout Scripture. When God is going to restore/revive His people or take them forward to His purposes, it usually involves raising up, sending, or changing leaders. It can be said that “as goes the leaders, so goes the people.” This is seen throughout the Old Testament with leaders like Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, the Judges, the prophets, and the Kings.

## **The book of Hebrews portrays this theme.**

The background of the letter to Hebrews was that Christians were facing early Neronian persecution. Nero hated the Christians because he perceived them as threatening his rule. Before he burned Rome and blamed it on the Christians, he led a systematic persecution of them by taking away property and various privileges.

Jewish religion was still tolerated, so many Jewish Christians were turning back to Judaism, and Gentile Christians were simply falling away to avoid the pressure. This was the main issue the writer of Hebrews was addressing Hebrews 2:1, Hebrews 3:1-6, 12-13, Hebrews 10:23-25,

Hebrews 10:32-39, and Hebrews 12:1-29. Throughout the letter, he showed the superiority of Christ as the fulfillment of Judaism as he attempted to turn them back to Jesus.

At the end of the letter, he affirms the important place of leadership in the process. He encourages the people to imitate, obey, submit to, receive the exhortation of, receive, and greet their leaders. Summed up it means to make plenty of room for leaders to work in their lives.

*Hebrews 13:7-24 Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith... (17) Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you...(18) Pray for us (leaders)... (22) But I urge you, brethren, bear with this word of exhortation (from a leader), for I have written to you briefly. (23) Take notice that our brother Timothy (a leader) has been released, with whom, if he comes soon, I will see you. (24) Greet all of your leaders and all the saints.*

# Leadership in God's House is a Family/Team Function

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Scriptures indicate that leadership in the Local Church is set among a group of leaders called Elders, with Deacons functioning closely with them (see "Leadership in the Local Church – Elders and Deacons" Pg 25)

- *Philippians 1:1 NASB Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers (elders/bishops Acts 20:21 Tit 1:5-7 1985) and deacons.*
- *Acts 14:23 NASB When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.*
- *Acts 20:17-28 NASB From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. (18) And when they had come to him, he said to them... (28) "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*
- *Acts 15:22-23; Titus 1:5-7; 1 Peter 5:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1 Timothy 3:1-12; 5:17-19; Titus 1:5; Hebrews 13:7,17,24; 1 Peter 5:1-2*

**The nature of the Godhead is a family/team that is joined, living, and working together.**

**Perfect Unity manifested in Family/Team**– Eternal Father, Father/Son, and Spirit

- *Eph 3:14-21 For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, (15) of whom the whole family in Heaven and earth is named (derives it's identity)...20) Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, (21) to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, forever. Amen.*

**And within the mystery of His Person - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - there is individual identity manifested in plurality and absolute unity.** There is inexplicable submission. The Father sent the Son, and the Son came. The Son returned to the Father, and the Father, and the Son sent the Spirit, and the Spirit came. Within these three persons, which are co-equal, co-substantial, and co-essential, there is evident submission, and this serves as the highest lesson to us: God is a family/team.

## God's design for Leadership is to be a Family/Team Experience

**Why Family/Team**—Many books and concepts of leadership and team are based on business models, but we are a family. For example, in "Get the right people on the bus," you can remove people from the bus, but in the church, they are still your family who you must live with.

### God's first leaders (created in His image) were a family/team

- *Genesis 1:26-27 NASB Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over...(27) God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

**Adam and Eve were made in God's image** (The Trinity was a family/team). As a family/team, they exercised their leadership in "ruling."

All through the Old and New Testaments, you see teams of leaders working together in family/team as they lead God's people

### The only thing in the creation order that was not good was for man to be alone.

- *Gen 2:18 NASB Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone...Aloneness is never God's will.*

**While on earth, Christ began to build those God gave Him into a Family/Team.** It was God's choice. (You may choose your friends, but you don't choose your family; God does, both natural and spiritual).

- *Luk 6:12-13 NASB It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. 13 And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles: Later in Jn 17:6 I have revealed Your name to the men whom You gave to Me out of the world. They were Yours, and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.*

A family/team is based on God's choosing. In the twelve He chose people who would not have chosen the others to be on the same team.

**During His last prayer on earth, Jesus prayed 3 times for His first church leaders to live in a family/team dynamic like the Godhead** (2 of the 3 times were so the world would believe there is a powerful testimony as God's people walk in family/team)

- *John 17:11-24...Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are....20..."I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; (21) that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. (22) "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; (23) I in them and You in Me,*

*that they may be perfected in unity(Gk into a **unit**), so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.*

**He started His church (Jerusalem) with a leadership team of 12 men and throughout the book of Acts and the Epistles, you see Jesus establish teams of leaders.**

- *Acts 14:23 NASB When they had appointed elders (plural) for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord. This included the extra local teams of Paul.*

**Important Spiritual Reality: It is hard to build His dream if you cannot walk in a family/team.**

Before Jesus commissioned them, He prayed for their unity in Team John 17. **It is hard to be effectively commissioned until we are in submission in a Family/Team.**

When He created mankind, He made them in His image, which involves living and working together in a family/team.

## **The nature of a Local Church is a family/team**

**The story revealed in the Bible - God's family together (with Him and each other) on God's mission."**

**Beginning** *Gen 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (27) God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

**End** *Rev 19:7-9 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." (8) It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (9) Then he \*said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'"*

**God always highlights and turns His people toward Family**

**God's Dwelling place**

- *Psalms 68:5-6 A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, Is God in His holy habitation. (6) God makes a home for the lonely... Only the rebellious dwell in a parched land.*

**A home for the lonely – Lonely (desolate, only like an orphan, with no family)**



- *Ephesians 2:19-22* "no longer strangers and aliens. but fellow citizens with the saints and are of God's household."

**Stranger** – foreigner, alien, guest, without a share in, outsider.

**Alien** – one who lives without citizenship, a stranger, a sojourner, in a place for a brief visit, not home.

**"And are of God's Household" – His home, not a building, but a family.**

**Biblical facts that show God is building His family and leadership should be in that context.**

- **Jesus was identified as a family member first.** His ministry flowed out of that. *Isaiah 9:6* Child born, son given, wonderful counselor...**Eternal Father.** *Mat 3:17* and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." (*Mat 7:5, Mar 1:11, Mar 9:7, Mar 12:6, Luk 3:22*)
- **In the last verse in OT God promises to restore family** *Mal 4:5-6* Turn hearts fathers to children and children to fathers  
  
**400 years later, John the Baptist comes in Matthew 11:14:** "And if you are willing to accept it, John himself is Elijah who was to come."
- **Jesus now defined God's family as in Him.**  
*MT 12:47-50* "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You." (48) But Jesus answered the one who was telling Him and said, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" (49) And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, "Behold My mother and My brothers! (50) "For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."
- **God restores family that is sometimes divided because of Him.**  
*Luk 18:28-30* Peter said, "Behold, we have left our own homes and followed You." (29) And He said to them, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, (30) who will not receive many times as much at this time and in the age to come, eternal life."
- *Mar 10:28-31* Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You." (29) Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, (30) but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. (31) "But many who are first will be last, and the last, first."
- *Mt 10:34-35* Sword destroys some family relationships but *Mt 19:29* receive one hundred times

- **There is multigenerational family training in God's house.** Titus 2 Older men and older women are training younger men and women.
- **Holy Spirit is the "Spirit of adoption where we cry Abba Father"** Rom 8:15 Gal 4:6
- **Local churches are the household of God** 1 Timothy 3:15 *I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth*
- **The Lord's Prayer instills a sense of family. "Our Father," not just my father, is a plural word. Each person is unique and special, but we are not an only child.** He births us into a family that has other brothers and sisters.
- **Paul uses the term "our Lord" 53 times, but only once does he refer to Jesus as "my Lord" (Phil 3:8).**
- **The New Testament uses Family terms regarding God and His people 1377 times (Father, Mother, Brother, Sister, Son, Daughter, etc.). The term "brother(s)/sister(s)" (Gk adelph) is used in Pauline literature 139 times.**
- **Three times in NT Savior is used in conjunction with a people or group being saved, only once does it refer to the Savior of an individual** Luk 1:46-47 *And Mary said: "My soul exalts the Lord, (47) And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.*
- **44% of the letters of the New Testament are about how we should get along with one another. This contrasts with about 4% on spiritual gifts.**
- **75% Of the Last Supper dialogue was about relationships with Godhead and each other.**
- **In the Ten Commandments, the first four are about relationship with God and the last six are about relationships with others. The last six begins with "Honor your father and mother."**
- **Paul's ministry style is best visible in his relationship with his spiritual son Timothy and others, who often traveled with him.** More than one-fourth of the 27 books in the New Testament are either written by Paul to Timothy or by Paul and Timothy to various churches (2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, and Philemon). This signals that genuine Christianity is not about pulpits, meetings, suits and ties, microphones, entourages, or air-conditioned limousines. It has everything to do with close family/teamwork in God's field.
- **In giving instructions on what to look for in leadership, Paul affirms that the church is God's household, and leadership operates in family dynamics.**

*1 Timothy 3:1-15 NASB It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do...(4) He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (5) (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)... (15) but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.*

One of the primary qualifications for leadership has to do with the way they rule in their home. Paul said that if they did not know how to manage their own home well, they wouldn't be able to manage God's home, the church. You might say it like this, "***The way they treat their bride is how they will treat His bride, the way they walk with their family will carry over into how they walk with His family, and how they run their home is how they will run His home.***"

**Paul acknowledges that the influence of motherhood and fatherhood is essential for healthy churches**

- *1 Thessalonians 2:7-11 But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. (8) Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us...(11) just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children.*

**God wants spiritual fathers and mothers caring for his people because spiritual moms and dads foster the best spiritual families! They combine:**

- Encouragement and provocation
- Care and challenge
- Sensitivity and directness
- Passion and objectivity
- An atmosphere of approval and preparation for God's destiny

**The metaphor of the Church as the body of Christ speaks of family/team 1 Corinthians 12:1-27; 1 Corinthians 14; Romans 12:4-10; Ephesians 4:16.**

As in a human body, all the parts have a special family/genetic relationship. All the parts and systems must flow together as a team for the overall body to function correctly.

- *Rom 12:5 Amp "Mutually dependent on one another" Ephesians 4:25 "members one of another."*

**Christ began building His church with a family/team of leaders.** He started His church (Jerusalem) with a leadership team (the twelve). Throughout the Book of Acts and the Epistles, you see teams of leaders in Local Churches. While on earth, Jesus clearly referred to them as His family (Matthew 12:46-50, Mark 3:31-35).

- *Acts 14:23 NASB When they had appointed elders (plural) for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord.*

## **Trans-Local Ministry is also designed to function as a family/team.**

You see it with the different teams that worked with the Apostle Paul, as he described his “fellow workers,” “fellow soldiers,” and “fellow bond-servants.”

- *Philippians 4:2-3 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. 3 Indeed, true comrade, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers.*
- *1 Thessalonians 3:2 and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith, (NASB)*
- *2 Corinthians 8:23 As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brethren, they are messengers of the churches, a glory to Christ. (NASB)*
- *Colossians 1:7, just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, (NASB)*
- *Colossians 4:7-11 As to all my affairs, Tychicus, our beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information. 8 For I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts; 9 and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of your number...10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings; and also Barnabas' cousin Mark about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him; 11 and also Jesus who is called Justus; these are the only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are from the circumcision. (NASB)*
- *Philippians 2:25 25 But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need.*
- *Rom 16:1-16, 1 Cor 16:10-24, Phil 4:1-23, Col 4:7-18, 2 Timothy 4:11-22*

## **Purpose and Advantage of Family/Team Leadership**

### **1. Family/team provides a living demonstration of the plurality and oneness of the Trinity.**

Jesus prayed along these lines for His leadership teams.

- *John 17:21-23 NASB that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. (22) "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one;...that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me.*

**2. Family/team leadership provides a living demonstration of the principle of the church as the body of Christ (God moving through a plurality/team/body 1 Corinthians 12, 14, Romans 12:1-6, etc.).**

**3. Family/team leadership demonstrates the Biblical principle of more than one voice speaking the same thing, making a more pronounced impact.**

- *Deuteronomy 19:15 NASB A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed (17:6).*
- *Matthew 18:16 NASB: "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.*
- *2 Corinthians 13:1 NASB This is the third time I am coming to you. EVERY FACT IS TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES.*

**4. A family/team can more effectively find the mind of the Lord for direction.**

The different giftings have different perspectives, and when combined, they present a much fuller picture of the Lord's mind.

- *Acts 13:1-2 NASB Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers:...(2) While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."*

**The Acts 15 council at Jerusalem** is another example of a team gaining a fuller perspective of the mind of the Lord regarding issues they were facing.

- *Acts 15:2 And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue. (NASB)*
- *Acts 15:6 And the apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter. (NASB)*

**5. Family/team leadership is much more effective and will produce greater results.**

- *Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 NASB Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. 10 For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. 11 Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone? 12 And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.*
- *Deuteronomy 32:30: "How could one chase a thousand, And two put ten thousand to flight, Unless their Rock had sold them, And the LORD had given them up?"*

**6. Family/team leadership puts you in a place of safety and balance in leadership.**

- *Proverbs 11:14 NASB Where there is no guidance the people fall, But in abundance of counselors there is victory.*
- *Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 "Two are better than one... But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up"*
- *Romans 12:5 Amp "we are mutually dependent on one another."*
- *Ephesians 4:25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.*

**7. Family/team leadership will help guard against the immoral traps set by the enemy, which have snared so many individual leaders.** You benefit from others who see and help cover blind spots every leader has.

**8. Family/team leadership provides strength and encouragement as we lead with others.**

Their strength helps cover the other's weaknesses and vice versa.

- *Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another.*
- *Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*

**9. There is a natural flow of discipleship and training as more experienced leaders work with less experienced ones, and those more gifted in one area help others who are less proficient.**

- *Titus 2:1-6 NASB But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine. (2) Older men are to...Older women likewise are to be...(4) so that they may encourage the young women...(6)MSG Also, guide the young men to live disciplined lives.*

## Characteristics of Healthy Leadership Teams

**1. Members prioritize the good of the church and the team over their ministry. This was the difference between Jonathan and his father, Saul.**

**2. Members who are joined together by God, not just connected.**

Unfortunately, many leaders and members simply connect but never join together. The Trinity does not simply associate or connect. They are joined. Each is such a part of the life of the other that they are seen as One, even though they are Three. Strong team members have a strong faith that God has joined them together. Their lives are interrelated by covenant and the reality that Jesus has joined them. There is a strong sense that they have a common destiny in God. It works much like a hand on the body. There is a God-designed destiny for the hand and the arm to be together. Neither will fulfill its purpose without the other.

**3. Members have faith and courage.**

A faith that is willing to take chances in heroic ways, much like we see in David and his mighty men.

#### **4. Members who are relational.**

Just like the Trinity walked open and honest before each other, God has called His leaders to walk the same way. Leaders are to walk as friends, open and honest (in the light) with one another, bearing each other's burdens and confessing faults to each other.

- *1 John 1:1-10...(3) what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ...(7) but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin....(9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.*

It takes friendship because leaders need to have lives open to each other. Each member brings both strengths and weaknesses to the relationship. As we walk as friends, we help cover for one another, and when we walk together, we become more than what we would be alone.

#### **5. Members have a shared vision.**

Each member must possess a shared vision God has birthed among them. *Amos 3:3 MKJV Can two walk together unless they are agreed?* Each should be able to articulate the vision and work together to see God's will come to pass.

- *Acts 4:32 CEV The group of followers all felt the same way about everything. None of them claimed their possessions were their own, and they shared everything they had with each other.*

This should be the characteristic of each team member, not only the vision but also the values we share in pursuing it.

#### **6. Members who submit to one another in the fear of God. Ephesians 5:21**

Mutual submission is the opposite of independence. Strong leadership teams walk submissively together. This submission extends beyond the scope of a professional ministry mindset in which submission is only held in church matters "at the office." This is a submission of life. There is no line of "personal and professional matters" because we share a common life together in Christ.

#### **7. Members possess discipline, preparation, and wisdom.**

Members who do not underestimate the enemy. The enemy is always trying to destroy the church by destroying the team. An undisciplined team member plays into the hands of the

enemy. It has been said that a team is only as strong as its weakest link. Leaders must be men who are disciplined in their personal lives, devotional life, marriage, finances, family, etc.

Because of the various issues people face in their lives, team members must be seasoned with wisdom, able to give wise counsel to others, and have wise counsel for the team.

#### **8. Members who are servants.**

Leaders must have a servant's mindset. Their leading is built on the foundation of serving that Jesus demonstrated and instructed them to possess. Matthew 20:25-27; Mark 10:42-45, John 13.

#### **9. Members who are leaders.**

David's mighty men were leaders. Leaders were people of initiative who did not misuse authority but earned respect by laying down their lives with integrity.

#### **10. Members who are loyal and faithful to the team.**

This is a very important quality, and the enemy most often attacks it. Loyalty and faithfulness are the glue that holds the team together. The idea of Covenant captures this.

- *Psalms 15:1-4 CEV Who may stay in God's temple or live on the holy mountain of the LORD? (2) Only those who obey God and do as they should. They speak the truth (3) and don't spread gossip; they treat others fairly and don't say cruel things. (4) They hate worthless people, but show respect for all who worship the LORD. And they keep their promises, no matter what the cost.*

This is greatly challenged when a team decision does not align with a member's personal preference. This is where loyalty and faithfulness are tested. Strong leadership teams defend each other, protect each other, and the team's decisions. Team members defend the team and present a strong, united front. Any differences are handled by the team, not by the congregation.

### **What Makes Leadership Teams Successful in God.**

1. Teams succeed if they model themselves after the Godhead.
2. Teams grow best in an atmosphere of encouragement.
3. Teams need a servant spirit.
4. Teams work best with a clear leader.



5. Teams work best when they carry a variety of the four faces of Jesus - Lion, Eagle, Ox, Man (find it in the book of Revelation and Ezekiel. Rev 4:7, Ezekiel 1:10)
6. Teams work best when they understand the mandate God has given them.
7. Teams will never succeed unless every member understands I cannot make it on my own (No "I" in team.).

## Challenges in Team Ministry

### 1. Our enemies (the flesh, demonic, and the world's system) oppose working together in family/team leadership.

The enemy knows that unity expresses God's nature, releasing His anointing through them. That is why they do everything they can to disrupt and destroy it.

- *Psalms 133:1-3 NASB A Song of Ascents, of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell together in unity! (2) It is like the precious oil upon the head, Coming down upon the beard, Even Aaron's beard (Aaron represented leadership), Coming down upon the edge of his robes. (3) It is like the dew of Hermon Coming down upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing--life forever.*

### 2. This is why there is so much emphasis in the New Testament on walking in unity.

- *Ephesians 4:1-3...to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, (2) with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, (3) being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*
- *Phi 2:1-3 MSG... if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care (2) then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends.(NASB make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose)*
- *1Corinthians 1:10 MSG...I'll put it as urgently as I can: You must get along with each other. You must learn to be considerate of one another, cultivating a life in common.*
- *2Corinthians 13:11 Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace. (Romans 14:15-19, Romans 15:1-6, 1Corinthians 6:1-5)*

## Christ dealt with the key challenges during His last week with His team.

**During His last week, the culture of ministry in the twelve met head-on with the culture of Family/Team He was building.**

**What Jesus was after with Leaders and His church is revealed in His last prayer in John 17.** The Godhead is the pattern for leadership, and God desires a family/team/relational life of oneness that the Godhead has. He prayed for it three times (Vs 11, 21, 22-23), and it is central for the proper leadership and testimony to the world (21 "that the world may believe You sent me; 23 "that the world may know that you sent me.")

- *Joh 17:11-24 "I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are.... 18 "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world...20 "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity (Gk into one unit), so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. 24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*

**This is how He sends His church/leaders into the world.**

- *Joh 17:18 "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world... 20:21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."*

**Four Key challenges Christ faced with them:**

### **1. Importance of Covenant amid Covenant Breaking**

Our carnal nature is prone to covenant-breaking (based on a desire for independence and autonomy); therefore, it is risky to walk in Covenant. Yet Jesus imparted values of Covenant during one of the twelve betraying Him, and later all of them betraying Him.

**You must die into to become one:** *John 12:23-25 And Jesus \*answered them, saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. (24) "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.*

**The reality of betrayal:** *Mat 26:19-21 The disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. (20) Now when evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples. (21) As they were eating, He said, "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me."*

**The first ethic of covenant among people is that you die into it.**

- *1Co 15:36...That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies;*
- *Pro 18:1 He who separates himself seeks his own desire.*
- *Php 2:5-11 NASB Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, (6) who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. (8) Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself...*

## **2. Entitlement mentality:** What is in it for me - What do I deserve?

### **This trips up leaders, especially when they sacrifice over the long haul.**

- *Mt 19:27-20:28 After the leaders watched Him deal with the rich young ruler. (27) Then Peter said to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?" (benefit of eternal rewards) (28) And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (29) "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life. (30) "But many who are first will be last; and the last, first. (But on the earth what Kingdom works like) (20:1) "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. (2) "When he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard.... (13) "But he answered and said to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? (14) 'Take what is yours and go, but I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. (15) 'Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous?'*

## **3. Rivalry:** Who is the greatest among us?

- *Mat 20:18-28 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, (19) and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify Him, and on the third day He will be raised up." (20) Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, bowing down and making a request of Him. (21) And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She \*said to Him, "Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit one on Your right and one on Your left." (22) But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking....(24) And hearing this, the ten became indignant with the two brothers. (25) But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. (26) "It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, (27) and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your*

*slave; (28) just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

### **Carried over to the Last supper**

- *Luk 22:13-32 ...and they prepared the Passover. (14) When the hour had come, He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him.... (21) "But behold, the hand of the one betraying Me is with Mine on the table. (22) "For indeed, the Son of Man is going as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!" (23) And they began to discuss among themselves which one of them it might be who was going to do this thing. (24) And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest. (25) And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.' (26) "But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant. (27) "For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves. (28) "You are those who have stood by Me in My trials; (29) and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you (30) that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

### **The family nature of the oneness of the Godhead is expressed in their desire to glorify each other instead of glorifying themselves. They understand their glory is in the other's glory.**

- *Mat 3:16-17 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, 17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." (Luk 3:22-23)*
- *Joh 8:28 So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.*
- *Joh 8:54 Jesus answered, "If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God';*
- *Joh 13:31-32 Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus \*said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him; 32 if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and will glorify Him immediately.*
- *Joh 14:10 "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.*
- *Joh 16:13-15 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of*

*Mine and will disclose it to you. 15 "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.*

- *Joh 17:1-5 Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You... 4 "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*
- *Heb 5:5-6 So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"; 6 just as He says also in another passage, "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."*
- *Php 2:3-9 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,*
- *Rom 12:9-10.... 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;*
- *1Th 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing*

#### **4. Jealousy and Envy:** Peter and John rivalry after the resurrection.

John refers to himself as the "disciple Jesus loved"

- *John 20:2-4 NASB So she \*ran and \*came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and \*said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." 3 So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. 4 The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first;*
- *Joh 21:17-23 ...Simon, son of John, do you love Me?"...(19) Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He \*said to him, "Follow Me!" (20) Peter, turning around, \*saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" (hoping it would be John) (21) So Peter seeing him \*said to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man?" (22) Jesus \*said to him, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me*

*Parable of the landowner Mt 19:27-20:28... (15) 'Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous?'*

**Story of independence versus team:** People who try to do leadership alone will hopefully come to the same conclusion as the bricklayer who tried to move 400 lbs of bricks from the top of a building to the sidewalk alone. On an insurance claim form, he explained what happened: "It would have taken too long to carry the bricks down by hand, so I decided to put them in a barrel and lower them by a pulley which I had fastened to the top of the building. After tying the rope securely at the ground level, I then went up to the top of the building. I fastened the rope around the barrel, loaded it with the bricks, and swung it out over the sidewalk for the descent. Then I went down to the sidewalk and untied the rope, holding it securely to guide the barrel down slowly. But, since I weighed only one hundred and forty pounds, the five-hundred-pound load jerked me from the ground so fast that I didn't have time to think of letting go of the rope. And as I passed between the second and third floors, I met the barrel coming down. This accounts for the bruises and lacerations on my upper body. I held tightly to the rope until I reached the top, where my hand became jammed in the pulley. This accounts for my broken thumb. At the same time, however, the barrel hit the sidewalk with a bang and the bottom fell out. With the weight of the bricks gone, the barrel weighed only about forty pounds. Thus, my one-hundred-forty-pound body began a swift descent, and I met the empty barrel coming up. This accounts for my broken ankle. Slowed only slightly, I continued the descent and landed on the pile of bricks. This accounts for my sprained back and broken collarbone. At this point, I lost my presence of mind, completely and let go of the rope. And the empty barrel came crashing down on me. This accounts for my head injuries. As for the last question on the form, ***'What would you do if the same situation arose again?' please be advised that I am finished trying to do the job alone.'***"

### **The Last Supper Dialogue – Solidifying the Foundation for Family/Team**

**During the Last Supper (John 12-17), Jesus laid the foundation for the twelve's conduct and attitude, enabling them to walk in a family/team.**

43% of the instruction was about their relationship with the Trinity, 32% was about their relationship with each other, and 19% was about their mission to the world.

#### **a) First Ethic Covenant**

- *Joh 12:23-25 And Jesus \*answered them, saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. (24) "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (25) "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal.*
- *1Co 15:35-36 But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?" (36) You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies;*

- *Pro 18:1 He who separates himself seeks his own desire, He quarrels against all sound wisdom.*

People break the covenant when their selfish desires go against their covenant responsibility. They follow their perceived self-interest instead of what they agreed to. If they think it is too painful to fulfill their covenant responsibility, then they break it (the reason for most divorces).

Last Supper - Jesus met and gave final instructions on the team, covenant, and their future in the context of someone getting ready to betray that covenant, then later all of them would deny (betray) Him.

- *Luk 22:15 And He said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer*
- *Mat 26:19-21 The disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. (20) Now when evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples. (21) As they were eating, He said, "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me." (John 18:15-27, Mt 26:70-72)*

#### **b) His first act of instruction was foot washing (servant leadership)**

It was not a ceremony but a practical act of every day serving that He wanted them to exercise toward each other.

- *John 13:12-15 So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? (13) "You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. (14) "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. (15) "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.*

#### **He was instilling in them a sacrificial love that must exist if they are going to walk together as a family or team.**

- *John 13:34-35 (34) "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. (35) "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*
- *John 15:8-17... "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love... (12) "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. (13) "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends....(17) "This I command you, that you love one another.*

#### **c) He concludes the Last Supper Instruction with a prayer that the same unity in the Godhead would exist among them.**

- *John 17:1-26 NASB Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said,... (21) that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. (22) "The glory which*

*You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; (23)  
I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may  
know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.*



# Leadership In the Local Church: Elders and Deacons

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## Kingdom of God.

### **Kingdom is a governmental word.**

The word “Kingdom” comes from the Greek word “Baselea” which means “a royalty, rule, a realm, royal power or dominion.” It is simply the King's Domain. Another way to express the idea of a Kingdom is government. The Kingdom is the government of God.

Romans 13 talks about the idea of God’s government/authority expressed on earth through delegated authority. The church is the primary place on earth that willingly receives the government of God. There is delegated government ruling that helps prevent chaos.

## **Government (Leadership) within the organization of the Local Church.**

There appears to be one office listed in the local church government: Elder (Bishop/Overseer), with the function of Deacon closely connected to it.

- *Acts 14:23 When they had appointed elders (plural) for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord.*
- *Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers (elders/bishops) and deacons.*

1 Tim 3:8-13 Acts 14:23; 20:28; 15:22-23; Titus 1:5-7; 1 Peter 5:1-2; 1Thessalonians 5:12

### **Biblically (OT and NT), ‘elders’ were:**

- a. Family men! Heads of families and tribes Exodus 3:16, 24:1, 1 Kings 8:1.
- b. Governmental men! Rulers and judges Joshua 20.1-4 Dt 19:12, Prov 31:23. Later among the Jews denoting the body of men that presided in the synagogue Matthew 15:2.
- c. Men who fight! Leading God’s people out into battle, e.g. Joshua 8:10.
- d. Men who seek God Joshua 7:2-7, Acts 13:1-3.
- e. Men who bring counsel and wisdom 1 Kings 12:1-8.
- f. Older men who have wisdom 1 Timothy 5:1.
- g. Designated leaders of local churches Acts 14:23, Acts 15:2,4, 6, 22-23, Acts 20:17-18, Philippians 1:1, 1 Timothy 5:17, Titus 1:5, James 5:14.

Elders stood alongside Moses (Numbers 11:16). Elders accompanied Joshua in conquest (Joshua 7:6). The Sanhedrin contained elders (Matthew 26:3), and the local synagogues were ruled by elders.

### Evolution of Eldership

- *Exo 18:13-27 It came about the next day that Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood about Moses from the morning until the evening. (14) Now when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge and all the people stand about you from morning until evening?" (15) Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. (16) "When they have a dispute, it comes to me, and I judge between a man and his neighbor and make known the statutes of God and His laws." (17) Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you are doing is not good. (18) "You will surely wear out, both yourself and these people who are with you, for the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone. (19) "Now listen to me: I will give you counsel, and God be with you. You be the people's representative before God, and you bring the disputes to God, (20) then teach them the statutes and the laws, and make known to them the way in which they are to walk and the work they are to do. (21) "Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. (22) "Let them judge the people at all times; and let it be that every major dispute they will bring to you, but every minor dispute they themselves will judge. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. (23) "If you do this thing and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all these people also will go to their place in peace." (24) So Moses listened to his father-in-law and did all that he had said. (25) Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. (26) They judged the people at all times; the difficult dispute they would bring to Moses, but every minor dispute they themselves would judge. (27) Then Moses bade his father-in-law farewell, and he went his way into his own land.*

The calling and idea of Eldership evolved throughout the OT into the NT: From family leaders in tribes. Moses, at his father-in-law's suggestion, had Elders chosen who would rule among the people according to their ability to judge (10, 50, 100, 1000, Exodus 18:21-22). There were 600,000 men, so with women and children, there were approximately 1.5-2 million people (Exodus 12:5). Elders stood alongside Moses (Numbers 11:16). Elders accompanied Joshua in conquest Joshua 7:6, through to the Elders in the city gates (Prov 31:23 Dt 19:12 Rt 4:2, 4:11), through the Intertestament period with Elders ruling the synagogues (The

**Sanhedrin contained elders** Matthew 26:3, and the local synagogues were ruled by Elders), to the Local Church.

Lack of leadership in the OT is seen as a judgment from God Isaiah 3.1-3, Ezekiel 7.26.

## Three New Testament terms (Greek words) to designate the office of Eldership.

**Considering the designations in both Pentecostal and Evangelical circles of the titles “Pastors, Elders, Bishops, and Overseers,” it is important to understand them from a Biblical perspective. Biblically, the Greek words translated as “Elder, Bishop/Overseers, and Pastor/Shepherd” refer to the same function and office in the local church, which is Elder.**

**1. Greek "Presbuteros" Elder** (G4245 used 67 times in the NT) - speaks of "senior," maturity and experience, an older man, a term of rank and office (members of the great council or Sanhedrin). **This speaks of the man and maturity.**

**2. Greek "Episkopos" KJV translates it, Bishop, while other translations use Overseer** (G1985 used 5 times in the New Testament 1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:7, 1 Peter 2:25, Philippians 1:1, Acts 20:28). Greek “epi” - over, “skopeo” - to look or watch, overseer guardian, superintendent, or elder. This term speaks of the leader's responsibility to watch over, protect, care for, and feed the flock. In the 5 passages this term is used in the same sense as an Elder. **This speaks of the office.**

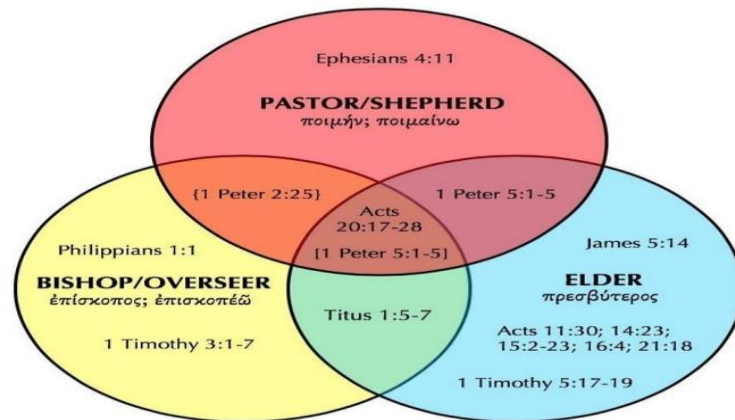
**3. Greek "Poimaino" Pastor/Shepherd (G4165 used 12 times in the New Testamen) t** Matthew 2:6, Luke 17:7, John 21:16, Acts 20:28, 1 Corinthians 9:7, 1 Peter 5:1-5, Jude 1:12, Revelation 2:27, 7:17, 12:5, 19:15– to act as a shepherd, one who is a feeder, tending, caring, nourishing, to the pastor for food, and one who rules. Closely associated with G4166 “Poimen”(). **This speaks of what He is doing.**

**The Scriptures show us the inter-relatedness of these three words.** They are different aspects of the same leadership position.

- *Act 20:17-28 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders (presbuteros) of the church... (28) "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers (episkopos), to shepherd (poimaino) the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*
- *1Peter 2:25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd (poimen)and Guardian (eposkopos)of your souls.*
- *1Peter 5:1-5 Therefore, I exhort the elders (presbuteros) among you, as your fellow elder (presbuteros) and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, (2) shepherd (poimaino) the flock of God among you, exercising oversight (eposkopos) not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; (3) nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. (4) And when the Chief*

Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. (5) You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders (presbuteros); and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. (Ephesians 4:11 is the only place in the NT, KJV where “pastor” is used).

- Titus 1:5-7 For this reason, I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and appoint Elders (presbyters) in every city as I directed you...For the overseer (episkopos) must be above reproach.



## Functions of Eldership.

Around A.D. 400, famous North African leader Augustine described a leaders job: "Disturbers are to be rebuked, the low-spirited to be encouraged, the infirm to be supported, objectors confuted, the treacherous guarded against, the unskilled taught, the lazy aroused, the contentious restrained, the haughty repressed, litigants pacified, the poor relieved, the oppressed liberated, the good approved, the evil borne with, and all are to be loved."

**1. They are first and foremost servants of the people of God:** Luke 22:25-27; John 13:1-20

Jesus washing the disciples' feet

**2. Ruling:**

- 1 Timothy 5:17 The elders who manages/ rules (Greek "to set over, superintend, preside over, protect) well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.
- 1 Timothy 3:4-5 He must be one who manages/rules his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (5) (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?).

They form the government of the local church. They have authority that comes from God. Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4. They are men of knowledge, experience, and wisdom to whom the members of the Body can appeal with vital questions and issues facing the church (Acts 15:2, 6;

16:4). They made judgments and decisions which were to be followed. They did not do so, however, without the input of the congregation (Acts 15:4, 22).

**Their ability and capacity to rule vary according to what God has invested in them and the needs of the people they are joined with.** We see this in Moses's first selection of ruling elders for their journey in the wilderness. Some were able to rule 10, 50, 100, and 1000.

- *Exo 18:21-22 And you shall look out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating unjust gain. And place such over them to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. (22) And let them judge the people at all times. And it shall be, every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they shall judge. And make it easier for yourself, and they shall bear with you.*

**3. Leading and guiding the church forward:** (Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24)

**4. They perform duties like a natural shepherd:** Feeding/teaching, leading, guarding, going after the lost & straying sheep, and seeing that their needs are met (1 Timothy 3:1-2; Hebrews 5:12-14; Hebrews 13:7; John 21:15-17; Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:2). For a spiritual shepherd, both the physical/material needs (Acts 11:30) and the spiritual needs (James 5:14) of the flock are to be met. They feed (teach) the flock; they are able, skilled teachers (I Timothy 3:2; I Timothy 5:17; Acts 20:30). They must be "men of the Word" who can persuade, encourage, and build up the Body in their teaching of sound doctrine, and who can refute and disprove those who are in opposition to sound doctrine (Titus 1:9).

**5. They are guardians of the flock:** Hebrews 13:17 The word "overseer" (Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:2) can also be rendered "guardian; one who watches over protectively." To "rule" (I Timothy 5:17) can also signify "to watch over with concern; care for, guard, render aid."

**6. They help to equip the members for works of service:** Ephesians 4:11-13

**7. They are examples to the flock:** 1 Timothy 4:12, I Peter 5:3, and Hebrews 13:7. They lead spiritual lives, living in harmony with the teaching of the Lord. They show the way to the flock of God through their own example.

These are the duties of elders as outlined in the New Testament writings. This is what God expects from His shepherds. We probably have additional expectations, some of which may grow out of the above duties. May we use caution, however, lest we bind duties and responsibilities upon these men that God has not. Let us remember: It is the Holy Spirit who creates elders (Acts 20:28), and through the inspiration of that same Spirit of God, their duties are declared unto us.

**Some of the ways you can express the functions/responsibilities of an Elder are** Making decisions, being responsible for all that goes on in the church, leading, guiding, and setting the direction/vision of the Church, ruling or making decisions on a variety of issues, including disciplining members, and serving and not serving.

**Eldership is about function as much as a position/office.**

**Eldership is not for life; it is only as God enables them to continue the function of eldership.**

## **Scriptures indicate a plurality of Eldership.**

They work as a team (see previous sections of family/team leadership)

1. Acts 14:23 "Elders in every city"
2. Acts 15:4-23 "Elders in Jerusalem"
3. Acts 16:4 "Elders in Jerusalem"
4. Acts 20:17 "Elders of Ephesus"
5. 1 Timothy 5:1, 17-21 "Let the Elders rule"
6. James 5:14 "Call for the Elders of the Church"
7. 1 Peter 5:1 "The Elders which are among you"
8. Titus 1:5-11 "Ordain Elders in every city"
9. Hebrews 13:17 "Obey them that rule"

As in any team, including a leadership team, there is a leader. You see it in the Trinity where the Father seems to be the head even though they are all equal *1 Corinthians 11:3-15 But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.* Elders tend to have different measures and areas of responsibility according to calling. Elders are equal in value but not in authority or gifting. As Elders lead a team there will be a leader among them who leads the team.

## **The New Testament clearly teaches that overall church eldership is male.**

Women can and should participate fully in the church's life, as well as in ministry and leadership of many sorts, but the final governmental authority in the church is to be held by a team of male elders. When instructing Timothy on what to look for in elders, Paul appeals to the order of government in the natural home as a parallel to the order of government in the church.

- *1 Timothy 3:1-15 NASB...(2) An overseer, then, must be above reproach... (4) He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (5) (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),...(15) but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.*

The general word for "men" or "brethren" includes both sexes in Greek. Throughout Acts and the Epistles, these words include us all equally in our salvation. However, it is interesting to note that when decisions are being made, and elders are being appointed, the scope is narrowed to the male brothers, e.g.

1. In Acts 1, when a new apostle was being chosen, Peter stood up amid a mixed group (1:15), but only men were considered (1:21).
2. In Acts 6, when the seven are chosen to be in charge of serving at tables, only the males are addressed, and the choice has to be from among them. This does not appear to prevent women from serving in the church but they are not appointed to be in charge.
3. In Acts 15, the Jewish/Gentile controversy was debated before the apostles and elders, who made the decisions. Then, they, with the whole church, chose men to communicate their decision to the churches.
4. The qualifications for an elder in Timothy and Titus can only be applied to men.
5. There is no mention of any female elders in the New Testament
6. Wherever apostles are mentioned and there are 20 named in the New Testament, they are always men. Junias is mentioned as an apostle (Romans 16:7), but it is impossible to tell whether this is a male or female name.

Government within the church—both in the local church and in the apostolic team—thus seems to have always been exercised by men, both in practice and teaching. We believe this combination of doctrine and the practice of the church is unassailable, being both prescriptive for and descriptive of the church's life.

## Authority between the Apostolic and Local Elders

While the elders are the governing authority in a local church, there are also indications that an authority exists with the extra local Apostolic as well.

**In Acts 15 when debating the Gentile issue, it mentions 6 times the Apostles and Elders deliberated and decided an issue.**

- *Acts 15:1-41 NASB the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue... (4) When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them ... 6. The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter. (22) Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men...(23) and they sent this letter by them, "The apostles and the brethren who are elders,*
- *Acts 16:4 NASB,,,delivering the decrees which had been decided upon by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem, for them to observe.*

Paul, as an Apostolic father, strongly influenced local churches, ordained elders in local churches, and exercised authority in discipline.

- *1Co 4:15 For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet you would not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.*

- *1 Corinthians 5:4-5 NASB In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, (5) I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*
- *1 Corinthians 11:16 NASB But if one is inclined to be contentious, we have no other practice, nor have the churches of God.*

**There is a primary authority in local churches that lies with the elders but also an aspect of it between the elders and their apostolic connections. Autonomous eldership authority without outside apostolic connection is a problem. An apostle attempting to override the local elder's authority is also a problem. There is an authority that lies somewhere between the two.**

## What is a Deacon?

Through the two thousand years of church history, movements have taken Biblical terms like “elder” and “deacon” and applied them to positions and people. Unfortunately, the definitions that go along with the Biblical terms are varied. This is especially true for deacons. In much of recent history (the past 150 years) the role of deacons has been greatly reduced and limited when compared to what we see in Scripture. Contrary to tradition, deacons are much more than people who do simple serving tasks like counting money or practical needs in the church. We want to recapture the idea of Biblical Deacons.

## Background

### 1. Background of the New Testament Church through the Intertestamental Period

It is often called the “four hundred silent years” because there was no oral or written revelation communicated directly by God that we consider the Bible. There was, however, written history of the people of God during that time. This is the period between the prediction of Elijah's coming (Malachi 4:5) and the angelic announcement of the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:11-20). In history, we can see God preparing His people, and the world for the advent of His Son and the Birth of the church.

### 2. Divine Preparation for the Coming of Christ and the Birth of the Church

**a) Preparation through the Greek language** - God was at work preparing the world for a common language which became the vehicle of communication for clarity and preciseness to proclaim the message of the Savior. As a result, the books of the New Testament were written in



the common language of the day, *Koine* Greek. It was not written in Hebrew or Aramaic, even though all the writers of the New Testament were Jews except for Luke, who was a Gentile. Koine Greek had become the second language of nearly everyone.

**b) Roman Peace and stability** – Rome brought stability often called “Pax Romana” in the civilized world.

**c) Roman Roads** - The Romans built a system of roads, which, with the protection provided by her army that often patrolled them, contributed greatly to the measure of ease and safety by which travelers could make their way back and forth across the Empire.

**d) The rise of the Synagogue System – It was the cradle of the early church**

## The rise of the Synagogue system

**1. The seventy years of exile and the intertestamental period gave rise to the synagogue system.** Since the temple and the sacrificial system had been destroyed, the exiles congregated in assemblies or synagogues to facilitate their identity and life as the people of God. Even after the return and restoration of the Temple and Jerusalem, as seen in Ezra and Nehemiah, God’s people were still scattered across the empire. Through the Intertestamental period, the Synagogue system continued to develop as local gatherings of God’s people.

**2. Through the synagogues God’s people became a nation within a foreign nation and a city within a foreign city.** Wherever the Jews emigrated synagogues sprouted up.

**3. The Synagogue became a cradle for the early local churches.** It had a structure like local churches in terms of leadership, discipline, education, and instruction. After Jesus’ announcement that He was going to build His church (called out assembly) in Matthew 16, He made a further statement in Matthew 18 that pointed to the Synagogue pattern. The Synagogue had prescribed ways to administer discipline among the gathered people of God. As Jesus touched on how discipline was the work among God’s people, He used an important phrase “where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am in their midst.”

- *Matthew 18:15-20* "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. (16) "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you... (17) "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. (18) "Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven....(20) "For where two or three have **gathered together** in My name, **I am there in their midst.**"

**The Greek word translated with the phrase “gathered together” is “sunagō.”** – to gather together is the root of Synagogue. The Grk. verb sunagō is the basis for the noun sunagōgê, or

synagogue. The verb *sunagō* occurs frequently in the LXX to describe the gathering of the Israelite people for worship or learning. In the Jewish Synagogue, it took ten members present to compose a congregation; now Jesus was saying it was just 2 or 3. Local churches become the local gatherings (synagogues) of God's people.

**Not only are local churches the gathering places for the continued life and identity of God's people in every city, but they are the place of His presence as the Temple.** After Jesus's death, the veil of the temple was torn, and God's presence (Holy Spirit) left. A short time later God's presence descended on the day of Pentecost among a gathered people in the upper room in Jerusalem. Now, as Jesus promised, His presence will come among His new temple, the church, wherever two or three are gathered in His name.

- *1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*
- *Ephesians 2:20-22...(22) in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.*
- *1Peter 2:4-5...(5) you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **This is probably why Paul felt directed to go to the Synagogues first.** He wanted to announce to them the fulfillment of what they were hoping for was fulfilled in Christ.*

**4. The synagogue system provided a backdrop of understanding for the early church.** When the first church in Jerusalem faced the challenges in Acts 6 regarding taking care of the widows, it instinctively drew from the Spirit and the background of the synagogue system to find its way forward.

**The Pattern for the Acts 6 ministers/deacons**—In the Synagogues, some were appointed to serve on behalf of the people for such things as the collection and distribution of relief, etc. They were chosen from among the people and brought before the governing body of the synagogue for ratification. This was probably the pattern they had in mind for choosing seven to oversee the distribution of food for the people. Most see these as the first deacons of the church.

- *Acts 6:2-6 NASB So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve (Gk 1247 Diakonos) tables. (3) "Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task...(5) The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorous, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. (6) And these they brought before the ap;ostels; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.*

## Evolving of the idea of Deacons in local churches

## 1. The use of the Greek words

The use of the three Greek words translated as the English words deacon, minister, or servant.

### a) **Diakoneo G1247** --"To be an attendant, to wait upon."

It is used of someone as waiting on a table (Luke 22:24-27) or in a general way of serving someone in any way as in (Matthew 4:11; 27:55; Acts 19:22) or in the sense of helping or supporting someone (Matthew 25:23; Romans 15:25) or in the ministry of a church official (1 Timothy 3:10). so it can be used to serve and minister as in the office of a deacon.

### b) **Diakonia (G1248)** --"Service or attendant as a servant."

It is used generally of all manner of service (Hebrews 1:4; Ephesians 4:12; Acts 6:4); it is used specifically for the preparation of a meal (Luke 10:40); it is used for the service or function of all new testament ministries (I Timothy 1: 12; Acts 20:24; I Corinthians 12:5; Colossians 4:17); it is used in the sense of aid, support or distribution especially of alms and giving to the poor (Acts 11:29; Romans 15:31; II Corinthians 8:4); and it is used of specific ministry in the body of Christ (Romans 12:7). This word is translated several ways. It is translated serving, ministry, ministrations, relief, office, service, administrations, ministry.

### c) **Diakonos (G1249)** --"A waiter, attendant, servant or minister."

In the New Testament it refers to the servant of someone (Matthew 20:26; 23:11; John 12:26); it refers to a helper or encourager (I Thessalonians 3:2; I Timothy 4:6); and it refers to an official of the church (Philippines 1: 1; I Timothy 3: 8) . This word is translated minister, servant and deacon. It is interesting that the apostles and other prominent Christians were seen in this capacity (Colossians 1:23; Ephesians 3:7; II Corinthians 3:6).

The words used in Scripture (in the NASV) from the Greek word "Diakonos" are "Deacon" used 3 times (1Tim 3:8, Phil 1:1), "Minister" used 20 times (Mk 10:43-45), "Servant" used 7 times (Mk 9:35)

## 2. Two ways the word is used.

When we combine all of these words with their references in the New Testament, it is clear that they are used primarily in two ways: **unofficially** and **officially**.

**a) Unofficial way** - In the general or unofficial sense, they refer to any kind of servant ministry. At times, they refer to the ministry in the home, of civil rulers, of angels, of various servants, and of all believers regardless of their calling in the body of Christ. In this sense, every born-again believer is to have the heart attitude and characteristics of a servant. Every believer, in order to be great in the kingdom, must learn to be skillful in service.

**b) Official way**—These words are also used in an official way. Certain passages clearly indicate that when these words are employed, they refer to a certain group of people who have proven

themselves to have a specific grace to do the job and were thus designated "deacons" or literally "servants" (Romans 16:2, Phil 1:1, 1 Tim 3:8).

### **3. In the official way, Deacons were closely associated with Elders**

The main two verses where the Greek word is translated into English word Deacon in KJV NIV and NASV.

- *Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:*
- *1Timothy 3:8 Deacons likewise (like the Elders) must be...*

### **4. The great error in the church of minimizing a Deacon's role to practical serving**

Over the last 2000 years of church history, various movements have taken Biblical terms like "elder" and "deacon" and applied them to different positions and people. Unfortunately, the applications of the terms are varied. This is especially true for deacons. In much of recent history (the past 200 years) the role of deacons has been greatly minimized when compared to what we see in Scripture. In many Charismatic and Evangelical circles, the term "deacon" has been applied to people who took care of serving the practical needs of the church (give them a title, and they will feel better about serving). Others saw them as groups who provide leadership in the practical business areas of the church. In the worst-case scenarios, some saw them as groups who help keep the spiritual leaders in check.

## **Five New Testament facts reveal that the idea of deacons has been minimized, and Biblical patterns need to be restored.**

**1. The Acts 6 group (most of the Orthodox Church see this group as the first deacon ministry in the church) administrated the feeding of over 5,000 people each day.** This was no small task. We used to help serve a Christmas-time outreach in Mexico in which we fed around 5,000 people, and it took weeks of preparation. Can you imagine doing it daily without Wal-Mart? It was nothing short of an administrative miracle.

**2. Stephen, who was part of this group preached, moved in signs and wonders, and initiated significant breakthroughs in the Spiritual realm.**

- *Acts 6:8 NASB And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people*

**3. Philip led significant spiritual breakthroughs and is the only person in the New Testament identified as an Ephesian 4 evangelist. He was also later a leader in the church in Caesarea**

- *Act 8:5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them.*
- *Act 21:8 On the next day we left and came to Caesarea, and entering the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, we stayed with him.*

**4. Phoebe was identified as a significant enough deaconess among churches that Paul appealed to the Romans to both receive and support her.**

- *Rom 16:1 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a **servant (Diakonos)** of the church which is at Cenchrea (2) that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and **that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you**; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well.*

**5. The qualifications for elders and deacons reveal a very high standard.**

Of the twenty-five qualifications listed for elders and deacons seen in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 Titus 1:5-9 Acts 6, seven of them applied to both (Not addicted to wine, not fond of sordid gain, tested, above reproach, husband of one wife, good managers of children and household, and a good reputation).

## Male and Female Deacons

### Reasons in favor of Female Deacons

#### a) It's Biblical – seen clearly in two passages

**I Timothy 3:8-11** *Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, 9 but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. 11 Women (some see this as deaconess) must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. 12 Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households.*

The previous verses of I Timothy 3 cover requirements for elders. Verse 8 begins the requirements for the office of Deacon. Verse 11 literally reads “the women.” Some translations say “their wives.” This is a possible interpretation, but a strained one. First, it requires the addition of the possessive pronoun “their,” which is not in the text. Also, another important question for that interpretation is “Why are Deacons’ wives being scrutinized and not Elders’ wives?” This is a glaring inconsistency. Finally, if this text means “Deacons’ wives”, what church screens Deacons in this way? The character of Deacon’s wives surely isn’t more important than that of Elder’s wives? A more natural and less strained understanding of this text is that these women were Deacons. This is consistent with Romans 16:1-2 where Paul refers to Phoebe as a Deacon.

**Clark Commentary** *1Timothy 3:11...I believe the apostle does not mean here the wives either of the bishops or deacons in particular, but the Christian women in general. The original is simply: Γυναίκας ὡσαυτως σεμνας. Let the women likewise be grave. Whatever is spoken here becomes women in general; but if the apostle had those termed deaconesses in his eye, which is quite possible, the words are peculiarly suitable to them. That there was such an order in the apostolic and primitive Church, and that they were appointed to their office by the imposition of hands,*

*has already been noticed on Romans 16:1 (note). Possibly, therefore, the apostle may have had this order of deaconesses in view, to whom it was as necessary to give counsels and cautions as to the deacons themselves; and to prescribe their qualifications, lest improper persons should insinuate themselves into that office.*

**Gill Commentary** - *Some instead of "wives" read "women", and understand them of deaconesses, such as were in the primitive churches; whose business it was to visit the poor and sick sisters of the church, and take care of things belonging to them; but it is better to interpret the words of the wives of the deacons, who must be as their husbands, "grave" in speech, gesture, and dress, of an honest report, a good behavior, and chaste conversation; which will reflect honor and credit to their husbands:*

**Romans 16:1-2** *I commend to you our sister **Phoebe, who is a servant (1249 diakonos) of the church** which is at Cenchrea; that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well.*

**b) Jesus had women who came and ministered to and with Him** *Mark 15:40-41 NASB There were also some women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the Less and Joses, and Salome. (41) When He was in Galilee, they used to follow Him and minister (1247 diakoneō) to Him; and there were many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.*

Proper interpretation of Scripture is important in the subject of Deacons. There are two great dangers in Biblical interpretation. The first danger is to say "Yes" where God has said "No." The other great danger, however, is to say "No" where God has said "Yes". This is as grave a danger as the slippery slope of liberalism. If God has said "Yes" to women Deacons, then so should we.

**c) It was the historic practice of the church.**

Church history demonstrates that the practice of having women Deacons is seen by many of our forefathers to be exceedingly biblical.

It is well documented that women served as deacons for the first 1000 years of the church. Though the practice waned around the time of the Great Schism between East and West, John Calvin reinstated Deaconesses as part of his reforms of medieval church polity. Informed by the example of the Early Church and by Scripture, Calvin was a proponent of the office of Deaconess throughout his life.

**d) Deacon as an office or a function**

A common belief is that, Acts 6:1-7, Philippians 1:1, and 1 Timothy 3:8-13 show that the apostles established the offices of deacon and deaconess as an office of authority and rulership within the early church. A careful study of the New Testament scriptures containing the Greek word diakoneo and its derivatives diakonia, and diakonos, clearly shows that these words are tied to

the functions of individuals not a title or office. There obviously was authority that went along with certain functions like the Acts 6 group but no indication that it was some permanent office that had inherent authority.

*Acts 6:3 NASB "Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.*

#### **e) The results of Deacons taking their place alongside of Elders**

When we see deacons released into their roles and responsibilities, the elders are released into the fullest of their function. We see it in the early church in Acts 6. The leaders gave themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word. The result was that the "word kept spreading, disciples increased, and many other priest/leaders became obedient" as the apostles had a chance to bring the word to them. As the deacons were released, we also see two of them, Stephen and Philip, begin to move in great power and outreach.

*Acts 6:2-8...It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. (3) "Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. (4) "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." (5) The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. (6) And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them. (7) **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.** (8) And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people.*

#### **f) Qualifications for elders and deacons**

1 Timothy 3:1-7 Titus 1:5-9 and Acts 6 show the moral, domestic, and spiritual qualifications of those who are elders and deacons in the church. One of the major qualifications has to do with the way they rule in their home. Paul said if they didn't know how to manage their own home well they wouldn't be able to manage God's home, the church. You might say it like this, "**The way they treat their bride is how they will treat His bride, and how they run their home is how they will run His home.**"

#### **Comparisons of Qualifications for Elders and Deacons**

There are 12 qualifications for deacons (If you take the position that those set aside in Acts 6 were Deacons) and 25 for elders and 7 qualifications apply to both (1. Not addicted to wine, 2. not fond of sordid gain, 3. tested, 4. above reproach, 5. husband of one wife, 6. managers of children and household, 7. good reputation).

#### **g) The interaction and distinction between elders and deacons**

While we are still learning to see New Testament deacons restored, one way to show the relationship between elders and deacons is to see the relationship between a husband and wife in a home. Paul says local churches operate like a natural household 1 Timothy 3:15. The husband is the head (leader), but the wife has a co-leader who carries great responsibility and administration in leading the home. The husband is responsible for the decisions (headship), yet the wife is fully involved and leads with him.

## How the church responds to the leadership

1. Submitting to the leadership of the elders Hebrews 13:17.
2. Following their example, Hebrews 13:17.
3. Expressing love and appreciation, praying for them, and helping them 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13.
4. Being generous towards them so that they don't have to live under unnecessary financial pressure Galatians 6:6, 1 Corinthians 9:9, 1 Timothy 5:17-18.

## Ordination Of Elders Deacons

**1. A simple way to sum up the NT examples of ordination, there are three elements to it.**

**a. There is a grace and calling of God.** The person feels a sense of call from God.

**b. It is recognized by a church body** (Hard to say you are a doctor if you cannot get patients). The church recognizes the gifts and character qualities in the person.

**c. It is confirmed by proven leadership both local (if they are set in place) and extra local and/or Apostolic ministry.** (Acts 6:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9).

It is recognition by proven leadership, both local and extra-local, and the church body of what they have the calling, grace, and character to do. They should have already been doing elder-type things without the title. Recognition is recognizing what is already being done.

**2. The number of Elders and Deacons in a local church considers both who has the calling and the local church's needs.** It is local church-based and does not transfer from one body to another.

**3. Setting in or ordination.** This is a special time of recognition and setting apart the qualified leaders to do the work at hand. It is a time of impartation and recognition 1 Timothy 4:4.



# The Fivefold Ascension Gift Ministries of Ephesians 4:10-12

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*Ephesians 4:10-12 NASB He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens so that He might fill all things.) (11) And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, (12) for the equipping (KJV Perfecting) of the saints for the work of service (KJV work of the ministry), to the building up of the body of Christ;*

**These are gifts Jesus gives to equip His church so the church will do the “work of the ministry.”**

Jesus walked in the full expression of the five giftings while on earth (Apostle Heb 3:1, Teacher Matthew 19:16, Evangelist Luke 19:10, Prophet Mark 6:1-6, Pastor John 10:11-14).

## Definition of each gift

The term "Apostle" originates from the Greek word "Apostolos," which translates to "a sent one or commissioned." The verb form "Apostello" (Concordance G649) is translated "send/sent" 133 times in the New Testament. The noun form of "Apostolos" (Concordance G652) which is translated "apostle/apostles" 80 times in the New Testament.

This word has roots in ancient Greece, where it referred to a leader of a colony or fleet dispatched from the motherland to establish colonies in other regions. The Apostolic gift desires to see the church built on Christ and built together as the Temple of the Lord in every place God sends them. He is a master builder 1 Corinthians 3:10. 1 Corinthians 12:28; Acts 14:23; 15:12; Galatians 2:4-14. Apostles typically work towards appointing and training leaders, starting and or establishing foundations in the churches, strengthening existing churches, formulating doctrine, sorting out problems, and facilitating mission and breakthrough.

Apostles understand that local churches are *“Christ body the fullness of Him who fills all in all” (Ephesians 1:23). God is going to fill the earth with His glory, and Apostles realize that the building and establishment of local churches in every geographic area are key to this happening.*

**2. Prophet** comes from the Greek word “Prophētes,” which means, “Inspired, to bubble up, foretell, and forth tell.” The prophetic desire is about God’s people being immediately connected and responding to Christ. Prophets typically work alongside apostles in foundational ministry. Ephesians 2:20; Acts 15:32. They receive revelation to direct, warn, inform, edify, exhort, and console God’s people. Ephesians 3:3-5; Acts 15:32; 11:28; 13:1,2; 21:10,11. Sometimes prophets receive revelation to foretell future events. Acts 11:27-28

**3. Pastor** comes from the Greek word “Poimen’ which means, “One who feeds and cares for the sheep.” Pastors desire to see people cared for and the church caring for one another. He wants the saints to be well-fed and have plenty of personal attention. He, like the others, works to equip the church so it will be more pastoral.

**4. Evangelist** comes from the Greek word “Euaggelistēs,” which means “A messenger of good, one who proclaims good news.” Evangelists desire to see the lost saved, the gospel preached, and the kingdom expanded in society. Evangelists not only do the work themselves but desire to equip the church to be evangelistic.

**5. Teacher** comes from the Greek word “Didaskalos,” which means “Instructor or teacher.” A teacher desires for people to know the word of God, and be disciplined by the truth. A teacher wants to see people living their lives based on God’s word and become doers of the word not just hearers. Teachers have a gifted insight into God’s Word and an ability to convey God’s message. They are concerned about exactness and the ability to bring various parts of truth into a comprehensive, understandable whole.

## The call to “Equip.”

According to Ephesians 4:10-11, a primary function of the Ephesians 4 gifts is to “equip/perfect” the saints. Equip comes from the Greek words *katartismos* (G2677) and (G2675) *katartizō*, which means “fit (join) together; met: I compact together, prepare, perfect, for his (its) full destination or use, bring into its proper condition (whether for the first time or after a lapse.” The overall meaning is to adjust, fit, or put in good working order to fully function as designed.

The word appears in 13 passages in the New Testament (*Matthew 4:20-21, 21:16, Mark 1:19, Luke 6:39-40, Romans 9:21-22, 1 Corinthians 1:10, Galatians 6:1, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Thessalonians 3:10, 1 Peter 5:10-11, Hebrews 10:5, 11:3, 13:20-21*).

When you consider the definitions of the words and the 13 passages you get a full idea of what equipping means.

The idea of equipping includes inspiration, motivation, providing vision, giving examples, showing opportunities and challenges, mending, fixing, cleaning, providing resources, preparing, providing administrations, providing connections and collaborations, or things needed so one can serve the purpose for which they are made.

In the book “Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary,” Harold Hoehner, lists three primary ways in which the word “equipping/katartizō” is used in Scripture:

- Mend/restore Ez 4:12, 16, 5:3, 9, Ps 68:9, Mt 4:21, Mk 1:19, Gal 6:1, 1 Thes 3:10.
- Establish/lay foundations Ex 15:17, Ps 8:2, 17:5, 74:16, 89:37, Heb 11:3.
- Prepare/train/equip Lk 6:40, Rom 9:23, Eph 4:12, Heb 10:5.

**In the 13 verses in the New Testament, there are 5-word pictures where the word “katartismos/ katartizō” appears.**

### **1. Repairing what is displaced like a physician.**

- *Ephesians 4:11-12 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, (12) for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.*
- *Galatians 6:1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.*

The equipper as physician is here in Eph 4:12 and Galatians 6:1. In ancient Greece the word has a medical history. A doctor would *katartizo* a body by setting a bone, putting it back into right connection with the other parts of the body. It’s too easy to become displaced. When we have a broken relationship, or anger and bitterness, we get out of joint. Someone has to come alongside to restore us.

### **2. Mending by undoing damage, cleaning, and preparing for future service like an off-duty fisherman**

- *Matthew 4:20-21 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. (21) Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them.*
- *Mark 1:19 Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets.*

The equipper as an off-duty fisherman appears in Matthew 4:21 and Mark 1:19. There are two meanings in this one: first, undoing the damage of previous service by mending the net, and second, preparing the nets for further service. The second task, preparing a net for service, involves cleaning it – getting rid of the unwanted stuff that collects in the net through long use. Too many believers are saved, but continue to carry the baggage of the old life: wrong ideas, bad attitudes, resentment, and pain. But the Lord wants to bring us healing, starting here and now: deliverance from death is step one, the journey to freedom is an ongoing process.

### **3. A Potter shaping.**

Equipping is building into people what they need to function effectively in the church and in the world. 2 Tim.3:17 “thoroughly equipped for every good work.” The potter shapes the clay, and

then when the shape is right fixes it – makes it permanent by firing at high temperature. A pot is useful for many tasks –carrying, providing nurture, storing things that are needed later.

- *Romans 9:21-23 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use? (22) What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? (23) And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,*
- *1 Peter 5:10-11 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. (11) To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

#### **4. A teacher of a pupil.**

- *Luke 6:39-40 And He also spoke a parable to them: “A blind man cannot guide a blind man, can he? Will they not both fall into a pit? (40) “A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.*

#### **5. A parent who raises children.**

- *1Thessalonians 2:11 just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children...3:10 as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?*

Parents walk with children to teach them and help them imitate their lives. Paul did this with people, and Jesus did it with the 12. He did not go to lectures with the 12; He took them with Him and lived alongside them.

When you consider the examples of how Jesus and others are equipped in the Bible, we see it in conversations, teachings, practical steps, and examples.

Jesus walked perfectly in all five of these gifts while on earth and now distributes these aspects of his heart to different people. He is always motivated by all five aspects of his heart. As a pastor, He desires people to dwell together in family, care for each other, and be safe and well-fed like a healthy flock of sheep. As a teacher, He desires for people to know the word of God and live their lives based on it (be doers of the word). As an evangelist, He desires the gospel to be proclaimed and lost people saved. As a prophet, He desires people to connect to and hear from Jesus immediately. He wants people to hear God’s continual words and respond to them. As an apostle, He desires His people to be sent forth to build and raise up God’s people as His temple throughout the earth. The goal is the full expression of Jesus throughout the earth.

## **Overlap of the Fivefold Gifts with Elders and Deacons**

It seems God calls certain elders to possess and function in one of these gifts, and at times, there seems to be an overlap of ministry. Ephesians 1:1; Galatians 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:11; 1 Peter 1:1, 5:1.

### **Is every local church leader called and gifted with one of these gifts?**

Scriptures do not dogmatically indicate that all local leaders will possess one of these Fivefold gifts. However, some elders and deacons seem to have an overlap of these gifts.

- The early leaders in Antioch were identified as Prophets and Teachers Acts 13:1.
- Peter identified himself as both an Elder and an Apostle 1 Peter 5:1-5.
- Paul identified himself as both an Apostle and a Teacher 2 Timothy 1:11.
- Philip, one of the first Deacons in the church in Jerusalem, was recognized as an Evangelist Acts 6:5; 8:26-40; 21:8.
- Stephen, one of the first Deacons in Jerusalem, had a significant breakthrough ministry (Acts 6:8).

# Shepherding God's Flock is at the heart of Eldership

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## The New Testament metaphor for Eldership is Shepherds, assigned to oversee God's flock

**Acts 20:17-21** From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church... 28-31 **"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God** which He purchased with His own blood. (29) "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; (30) and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. (31) "Therefore be on the alert.

**1Peter 5:1-8** Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, **(2) shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight** not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; (3) nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. (4) And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

## Shepherding is an essential part of the Post Resurrection Commissions

### 1. The four Post Resurrection Commissions

**a) Preach the gospel and baptize.** **Mark 16:15-16** And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. (16) "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

**b) Proclaim repentance for forgiveness of sins.** **Luke 24:47** and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

**c) Make disciples (followers of Jesus), baptizing them and teaching them to obey every command of God.**

- **Matthew 28:18-20** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (19) "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

d) Shepherd (tend and feed like a shepherd takes care of a flock) the young (lambs) and old (sheep).

- **John 21:15-17**...Jesus \*said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He \*said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He \*said to him, "**Tend My lambs. (feed, hay, straw, promote in every way the welfare of)**" (16) He \*said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He \*said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He \*said to him, "**Shepherd My sheep.(to tend a flock, rule govern)**" (17) He \*said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus \*said to him, "**Tend My sheep.**"

**Fulfilling the Post-Resurrection Commissions (Great Commission) requires more than meetings, crusades, and various mission activities.** Making disciples, teaching them to obey all Jesus commanded, and tending and feeding sheep (and lambs) require ongoing life in the local church. This is where eldership is extremely important.

## **2. The calling on shepherds can be summed up in tending and training God's sheep**

It is a process of joining people together in a flock and caring for both young and old, just like a natural shepherd would take care of his flock.

## **3. The prophet Ezekiel received a prophetic picture of this aspect of the Great Commission being fulfilled.**

- **Ezekiel 36:37-38** 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "This also I will let the house of Israel ask Me to do for them: I will increase their men like a flock. (38) "Like the flock for sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem during her appointed feasts, so will the waste cities be filled with flocks of men. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

**It began with the church in Jerusalem.**

- **Acts 2:41-46** So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. (42) They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.. (44) And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;..(46) Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

**Ezekiel saw that this process would spread into other waste cities.** As the gospel spread across the face of the earth flocks of God's people were planted (churches) in other cities where they were tended and trained. *Ephesians 1:23, Ephesians 3:10-11*

## Description of the tending and training of the flock of God from 1 Thessalonians

- **1 Thessalonians 2:7-12 NASB** *But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. 8 Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.... (11) just as you know how we were exhorting and **encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,** (12) so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.*
- **1 Thessalonians 4:1-3 NASB** *Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more. (2) For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. (3) For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality;*
- **1 Thessalonians 5:11-15 NASB** *Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing. (12) But we request of you, brethren, that you **appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction,** (13) and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. **Live in peace with one another. (14) We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.** (15) See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.*

God has ordained leadership in His House to resemble a family of shepherds, mirroring the way natural shepherds operated in the Biblical world. These shepherds, like moms and dads, nurture and guide His family flock. The Bible contains about 702 references to shepherds and sheep, many of which outline God's design for leadership among His people. Moreover, the New Testament employs family imagery to depict God and His people a staggering 1377 times. In contrast, contemporary leadership concepts often focus on "Ministers" who oversee meetings, programs, and organizations, rather than shepherds who care for God's family like parents.

### Four Elements of Tending and Training from 1Thessalonians 5:11-15

- It takes everyone working to encourage and build up each other Vs 11.
- We need to appreciate the work of Elders who have a charge over the flock Vs 12.
- The unruly need admonished, the fainthearted need encouraged, and the weak need supported, with all patience Vs 14.



### 1. Admonish the unruly

**Admonish** comes from the Greek word “noutheteo” which means “to warn, caution, to urge to duty, remind of obligation, to put sense into.” The idea is to come alongside and put some sense into their heads. One writer says, "It is the idea of coming to someone who is following a path that ultimately ends in serious consequences and instructing them about the inevitability of those consequences."

**Unruly** comes from the Greek word “Atakos,” which means “Disorderly, out of ranks, deviating from prescribed order.” It was used in Greek society of those who did not show up for work.” Atakos was also used in a military sense. When used in a military sense it had the idea of a soldier who was out of line, a soldier who was out of rank, a soldier who was guilty of disorderly conduct, who was insubordinate, non-submissive, disobeying orders, not following through on his duty. He was out of step. It eventually came to mean anybody who doesn't do his duty or follow through on his responsibility. Moffit(?) translates it as "loafers."

### 2. Encourage the Fainthearted

**Encourage** comes from the Greek word “Paramutheomai” which means “To calm, console, encourage, inspire with courage.” It has the idea of coming alongside to console, to comfort, to strengthen, to reassure, to cheer up, to refresh, to soothe.

**Fainthearted** comes from the Greek word “oligopsuchos” which means “feeble-minded, lacking courage, timid full of fear.”

The term “Oligopsuchos” comes from two Greek words meaning soul and small, the small-souled. Small-souled people tend to hate change, fear the unknown, and worry about everything. They want a risk-free life with absolute security. They're usually melancholy and have no spirit of adventure.

### 3. Help the weak

**Help** comes from the Greek word “Antechomai” which means “Hold to support, be alongside” (like an ankle splint). The Greek word further means “to hold firmly to, to hold tightly to, to cling to, to support, or to hold them up.”

**Weak** comes from the Greek word “Asthenēs” which means “The feeble, liable to yield break or collapse.” They are morally and emotionally weak. Paul uses this word in the New Testament most often to refer to susceptibility to sin. These are the weak people that you barely picked up out of the hole of sin and get them dusted off and they're back in it again. These are the people that find it so terribly difficult to do God's will. These are the people who keep falling into the same sins over and over and you work so very hard and there they go again.

#### 4. With Patience

All caring for and walking with God's people is done with patience. Paul says it is a fruit of walking with the Holy Spirit is patience Galatians 5:22, and that love is patient 1 Corinthians 13:4. In tending and training God's people, we must be patient and gentle. We bear with people like God has been patient and gentle with us Colossians 3:13.

#### Gentleness and Patience go together

- **Ephesians 4:1-3** NASB *walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.'*
- **Ephesians 4:23-32** NASB *and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, (24) and put on the new self...(32) Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*
- **Philippians 4:4-5** NASB *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! (5) Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.*
- **Colossians 3:12-13** NASB *(12) So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; (13) bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.*
- **Titus 3:2-4** NASB *to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men. (3) For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. (4) But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,*
- **1 Timothy 3:3** *not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.*
- **2 Timothy 2:24-26** NASB *The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*
- **2 Timothy 4:2** NASB *preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.*
- **2 Timothy 3:10-11** NASB *Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, (11) persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me!*
- **1 Peter 3:4** *but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.*
- **James 3:17** *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.*
- **1 Thessalonians 5:13-15** NASB *Live in peace with one another. 14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.*

- **James 5:19-20 MSG** *My dear friends, if you know people who have wandered off from God's truth, don't write them off. Go after them. Get them back* 20 and you will have rescued precious lives from destruction and prevented an epidemic of wandering away from God.
- **2 Peter 1:5-7 NASB** *Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, (6) and in your knowledge, self-control, **and in your self-control, perseverance,** and in your perseverance, godliness, (7) **and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.***
- **Jude 1:22** *And have mercy on some, who are doubting*