



Baptist Faith & Message 2000

VI. The Church



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A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its two scriptural offices are that of pastor/elder/overseer and deacon. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.



Church Organizational Models

1. Hierarchical→

- a. Presbyterian (Presbyters/ Elders share authority)- Reformed Theology



Some Methodist Churches



Catholic/Anglican Churches- Pope/Cardinals/Bishops/Priests



Church Organizational Models

- Congregational→
 - Authority rests with local congregations, who elect leaders and make decisions.
 - This includes the Southern Baptists
 - Contributes to the diverse nature of churches within the SBC. “Autonomous Local Congregation of Baptized Believers.”
 - Though “Autonomous” the congregational model often emphasizes ties to and voluntary participation in denominational conventions, and practices.
 - Local, State, and National Conventions



Church Organizational Models

- Other Models→
 - Plural Leadership→ comprised of leadership groups/teams that are responsible for leading the church and caring out decision making processes.
 - Common in Pentecostal Denominations
 - Synod→ A group of bishops or elders provide leadership at a regional level.
 - Common in the United Methodist Church
 - Independence→ Common in many non-denominational churches with minimal organizational ties to other churches.



Church Organizational Models

- What/Where are We? (Broadway Baptist Church)
- Where are YOU?
- What do you see as the strengths or weaknesses of each organizational model?



The Two Ordinances of Christ

1. Baptism

- a. Acts 2:38→ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the Holy Spirit.”
- b. Romans 6:3-4→ Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.
- c. Matthew 28:19→ “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”

2. Communion

- a. Luke 22:19-20→ And He took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying; “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”



Primary Roles of the New Testament Church

What are they?

1. Discipleship→ The growth, training, and teaching of members/believers.
 - a. In what ways do we disciple and/or allow ourselves to be discipled?
 - b. Where are we (BBC) doing a good job?
 - c. Where could we (BB) be doing a better job?
2. Key Verses→
 - a. Hebrews 3:12→ Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
 - b. Hebrew 6:1→ “Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God,”



Primary Roles of New Testament Church

1. Evangelism—> carrying the gospel message to non believers anywhere and everywhere.
 - a. How/Where are you involved in the evangelical mission of the Church?
 - b. What do we (BBC) do well in regards to evangelism?
 - c. What can we (BBC) do better?
2. Key Verses—>
 - a. Matthew 28:19→ “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”
 - b. Mark 16:15→ “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”.



Evangelism

- Key Verses (Continued)
 - Romans 10:14-15→ "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how will they believe in him whom they have not heard of? And how will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!' "
 - 1 Peter 3: 15→ "But in your hearts, set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give reasons for the hope that lies within you, but do this with gentleness and respect".



Evangelism (Continued)

- Who do we evangelize to?
 - Is there a one size fits all answer to this question?
 - Matthew 28:19→ “All Nations..”
- Where do we evangelize?
 - What about here?
 - Mark 16:15→ “Go into the WORLD...”
- When do we evangelize?
 - 1 Peter 3:15→ “Always be prepared...”
- How do we evangelize?
 - “Always preach the gospel and if necessary use words.” → St. Francis of Assisi (Maybe)
 - 1 Peter 3:15
 - Romans 10:14



Who is the church for?

- Believers? Unbelievers? Both?
- Can a Church function with ONLY Discipleship OR Evangelism?
 - Why or Why Not?
 - How does the answer to these questions affect our views on the structure of the worship service?



Offices of the Church

1. Pastor/Elder/Overseer

2. Deacon

3. To Be Continued....



Pastor/Elder/Overseer

- Greek Text

- Episkopos = Overseer

- Presbuteros = Elder

- Poimen = Pastor

- Used interchangeably in NT

- In Titus 1, Paul uses both terms to refer to the same man (*presbuteros* in v. 5 and *episkopos* in v. 7).



Qualifications for Elders

- Titus 1:5-9

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

- 1 Timothy 3:1-7

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



Function of Elders

- Shepherd the Church (1 Timothy 3:5, 1 Peter 5:1-3, Acts 20:28)
- Rule, Preach, and Teach (1 Timothy 5:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:12, 1 Timothy 3:2)
- Exhort and Refute (Titus 1:9)
- What would an elder at BBC do?



Deacon

Greek Text

- Diakonos = Servant



Qualifications for Deacons

1 Timothy 3:8-13

• **8** Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued,^[c] not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. **9** They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. **10** And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. **11** Their wives likewise^[d] must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. **12** Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. **13** For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.



Function of Deacons

Acts 6:1-7

● **6** Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists^[a] arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. **2** And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. **3** Therefore, brothers,^[b] pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. **4** But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." **5** And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. **6** These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. **7** And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

- What does/should a deacon do at BBC?



Elders vs. Deacons

- How are these roles similar based on the biblical text?
- How are these roles different based on the biblical text?
 - Do/Have you seen these roles used interchangeably?
 - If so WHY do you think this is the case?
 - IF SO are there any problems with this?
 - Why or Why not?



Women and the Church

BFM 2000- “While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.”- Amended 2023

- What is the role of women in the church?
- Why do you believe this was amended?
 - Elder/Overseer added to the roles of the church limited to men. (Previously contained only “Pastor”)- BFM 2000
- Article 18 (The Family)-
 - “The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to his people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.”



Leadership (Umbrella Model)

Christ



Man/Husband



Woman/Wife



Children



Biblical Leadership

- There are countless leadership “Models” and “Styles” BUT...
 - Only 1 that works→ Biblical Leadership
 - "Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." - Matthew 20: 26-28
 - "Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but with many counselors, there is deliverance." - Proverbs 11:14
 - *"You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."* - John 13:13-17



Keys To Understanding Leadership

1. Leadership is a Vacuum→ when one level is voided whether intentionally or unintentionally it will be filled by something else.
2. The intrinsic value of the people leading and being led is established biblically and CAN NOT be ignored.
 - a. We are ALL CREATED!
3. Christian relationships CAN NOT be cultivated without biblical guidance.
4. Service to those we lead and to those who lead us is established biblically.



Women in Church

What does the Bible say?

- 1 Corinthians 11:3 → “3 But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”
- Ephesians 5: 22-33
- Titus 2: 3-5 → “3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. 4 Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.”



Women In Church

What does the Bible say (Continued)

- 1 Timothy 2: 9-15
- 1 Timothy 2: 12
- Luke 8: 1-3
- 1 Corinthians 14: 33-35



Women In Church

Key Points

1. Women are not excluded in the mission of the Church.
 - a. Luke 8:1-3, Luke 10:38-42, Galatians 3:28
2. Women have a critical role in the instruction and discipleship of other women.
 - a. Titus 2: 3-5
3. Women are called to a submissive role.



Submission

Why does this term give us such problems?

- “Hupotasso” → Greek word where we get submit, submission, subject.
 - Used 40 times in the New Testament. (Various uses)
- Is submission modeled in our Christian Relationships at various levels?
 - If it was modeled better would it change our feelings about the term? (Especially for women?)