



The Church

Lesson 3: Government and Structure in the Church

1. Introduction / Review

In the previous lesson we learned that the church is pictured as many things in the Bible. We studied three specific pictures of the church including:

- _____
- The church is God's House
- _____

In this lesson we are going to study the government and structure of the church. But first we are going to see the importance of our relationships in the Body of Christ.

2. One another

We learned that salvation is a “personal” relationship with Jesus, but that we are also a part of the Body of Christ with other brothers and sisters – a family.

The following is a word study on verses in the New Testament that mentions the phrase “one another”.

These verses teach us about our relationships with one another in the church.

- _____

Mark 9:50

- _____

John 13:14

- _____

John 13:34

1 Thessalonians 3:12

1 Thessalonians 4:9

1 Peter 1:22

1 Peter 4:8

- _____

Romans 12:10

1 Corinthians 11:33

- _____

Romans 12:16

Romans 15:5

- _____

Romans 14:13

- _____

Romans 15:7

- _____

Romans 15:14

Colossians 3:16

- _____

1 Corinthians 6:7

- _____

1 Corinthians 12:25

Galatians 5:13

Galatians 6:2

• _____

Galatians 5:15

Galatians 5:26

James 5:9

James 4:11

• _____

Ephesians 4:32

Colossians 3:13

• _____

Ephesians 4:25

Colossians 3:9

• _____

Ephesians 5:19

Ephesians 5:21

1 Thessalonians 4:18

1Thessalonians 5:11

James 5:16

1 Peter 4:10

• _____

Hebrews 10:25

- _____

Hebrews 10:24

1 Peter 3:8

1 Peter 4:9

3. The five-fold ministry

Ephesians 4:11, 12

We refer to these ministries as the “five-fold ministry”. They are gifts from God to the church – appointed by God.

Apostle

- _____

- A trail blazer

Often involved in planting churches and going where nobody has gone to preach the Gospel.

They help to lay the foundation upon which the church is built.

- Overall knowledge of the Word of God, not specializing in one area.

- _____

- Heart of a father

The most famous apostle in the Bible is Paul.

Prophet

- _____

- Brings the clear Word of God for the “hour”

- Works together with the Apostle to bring breakthrough and lay the foundation.

Evangelist

- The least is found about this office in scripture.

- _____
- Not just a gift to the world – but also the church, according to Ephesians.

An example is Philip in Acts 8.

Acts 8:5-8

Pastor

- _____
- Love for people
- _____
- Gifted to bring believers into a place of maturity and operating in their gifts.

Teacher

- Teaches the Word of God with revelation

There are many ministries in the church (we have not looked at all of them yet). However, there are only two offices: deacons and elders.

4. Deacons

To understand the word “deacon” we must first understand the difference between translation and transliteration.

What is transliteration? – Transliteration is taking the Greek word and putting into the English vocabulary. Some examples of this in the English vocabulary are: baptism, bishop, apostle, evangelist, and deacon.

Definition of DEACON:

- _____
- _____
- One who attends to the needs of others and waits upon them

Many times in the New Testament the Greek word for deacon is translated “serve”.

1 Timothy 3:10

In this verse, the word “serve” is translated from the Greek word “diakoneo”.

However, the word “deacon” is the same as the Greek word.

Deacons were first instituted in Acts 6.

Acts 6:1-6

There are some things we learn here (and in some other places) about deacons.

- Deacons were chosen to handle expansion.

It makes sense that the more the church grows, the more people are needed to serve.

- _____
- There is no indication of governmental authority.
- Deacons could go into other fields of service.

Acts 21:8

- _____

Romans 16:1, 2

“Servant” is translated from the Greek word for deacon.

5. Elders

Elders have their origin in _____

Exodus 18:13-24

Not everything in the Old Testament was done away with. The early church was made up of Jewish believers. There were many things the early church continued in practice from the Old Testament. The office of the elder was one of those things.

Like deacons, elders were instituted because of expansion.

There are six Greek words that shed light on the Biblical meaning and function of elders.

These words show us that sometimes the word “elder” speaks of:

- _____

- An elder of a city
- Elders can be a group of spiritual leaders

- _____

The following are some points about elders that will help you understand the New Testament office.

- The five-fold ministry gifts are elders. But not every elder is a five-fold ministry gift.

For example, your pastor is an elder. But not every elder your church is a pastor.

- _____

Acts 14:23

Acts 21:18

- _____

Titus 1:5

1 Timothy 5:22

- An elder is a leader who works hard to give spiritual guidance.

1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13

1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13 – New Living Translation

1 Thessalonians 5:12 *Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance.*

1 Thessalonians 5:13 *Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other.*

- _____

Acts 20:28

- An elder shepherds by protecting the flock from wolves.

Acts 20:29-31

- _____

Titus 1:9

- An elder prays in faith for the sick.

James 5:14, 15

- _____

1 Peter 5:1-3