

# RETHINKING CHURCH

SESSION 3 | JUNE 18, 2017

## THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

- Three Crucial words
  - Presbuteros—
    - Elder
    - A person characterized by maturity and dignity.
  - Episcopos—
    - *Epi (over) Scopos (watcher)*
    - Bishop
    - A person charged with a supervisory duty
  - Poimen—
    - Pastor
    - A person who cares for sheep
  - The words in Scripture: The words seem to be used in combination with one another.
    - Acts 20:17, 28
    - 1 Peter 5:2
- Three forms of church government (polity)
  - Episcopalian
    - Supervisory role from the top
  - Presbyterian
    - Supervisory role of representatives from the congregation
  - “Poimenian”
    - Leadership by a local pastor
  - Question—How many offices of the church are there?
    - Two: Pastor and Deacon?
    - Three: Elders/Bishop, Pastor, and Deacons?
    - Four: Pastor, Bishop, Elders, and Deacons?
    - Five: Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors/Teachers, Deacons?

## WHERE DID ELDERSHIP COME FROM?

- The Synagogue of Jesus’ day?
  - OT elders were “representatives of the people” with no governing authority. (Exod. 3:16 vs 1 Tim 5:17) (1 Sam 8:4)
  - OT elders became an aristocracy during the exile.
  - In the NT, sometimes Scribes were called elders, sometimes the Sanhedrin, and sometimes all of them.
  - In the Synagogue, the elders were responsible for administrative and disciplinary functions, with special seats of honor, but were not responsible for worship. They had no role in teaching.

- If not from the Synagogue, then...
  - Church leadership is Divinely inspired
  - The church was a mystery
  - the church cannot be seen in the Old Testament
  - The church cannot be developed from any earthly institutions.
  - The church has its own form of polity.

## WHAT IS THE MODERN PASTOR SUPPOSED TO DO?

So many agendas for and about the Pastor *“abound because pastors are not sure of their own identities and responsibilities. They try to function like deacons by visiting the sick and helping the poor. They try to function like bishops by meeting with committees and supervising church programs. They try to function like pastors by preaching and teaching. In their efforts to be everything and do everything, they end up as office managers and program technicians.”* Jerry R. Young. Grace Seminary. (1985; 2002). Vol. 6: Grace Theological Journal Volume 6.

- Pastor / Bishop / Elder
  - In his pastoral role, he teaches and leads.
  - In his bishop role, he supervises.
  - In his elder role, he provides wisdom and maturity.
- Two Tasks of the Pastor
  - John 20:15-17
    - Tend = “feed”, as in Luke 15:15
    - Shepherd = “rule” as in Rev. 2:27, 12:5, 19:15
  - He rules: 1 Timothy 1:3, 4:11, 5:7, 6:13, 17
    - “Instruct or Prescribe” is a stronger word than we may first recognize.
    - Acts 1:4, 5:28, 40, 10:42, 15:5, 16:8, 23, 17:30, 23:22, 30
    - How this is done: 2 Timothy 2:24-26
  - The second role is to “feed”
    - 2 Timothy 4:2, Titus 2:1
- Ultimately, the P/B/E is the steward of the ministry of Christ through the church.
- He carries out this stewardship by LEADING and FEEDING.