

# **“Love Does Leadership”**

Greg Wendschlag January 14, 2018

*“I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it!” Matthew 16:18*

## **History of church leadership**

- Jesus chose disciples and then commissioned them Apostles – Matt. 28
- The Apostles delegated deacons – Acts 6
- Elders were appointed to oversee the local church communities – Titus 1
- God gifted certain people to equip the community of believers – Eph. 4
- God gifted each person to build up the church – Rom. 12; 1 Cor. 12

## **Definitions of Biblical church leadership roles**

- **Jesus** is the head of the church – Eph. 5:23; 1 Pet. 5:4; Acts 20:28
- The church is Christ’s “**body**”; a plurality of parts and gifts – 1 Cor. 12
- **Elders** – presbuteros - “older men” – Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Tim. 3; Titus 1
- **Bishops** – episkopos - “overseer.” - Acts 20:17, 28; Phil. 1:1; 1 Pet 5:2
- **Deacons** – diakonos – “servant” – Acts 6; Rom. 16:2; Eph. 3:7; 1 Tim. 3

The Elder/Bishop was concerned with the general, spiritual oversight of the church while the deacon was called to serve in practical areas of ministry to the body.

An elder must meet specific **character qualifications** before taking on the position.

1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:6,7; 1 Peter 5:1-3; Acts 6:3

Male leadership in the **home** – 1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:22-33; Col. 3:18-19; Titus 2:1,4,5; 1 Pet. 3:1-7

Male leadership in the **church** – 1 Tim. 2:9-15, 3:1-13; 1 Cor. 11:2-16; Titus 1

Example of deaconesses – Phoebe; Rom. 16:1-2

One slide with all below on it

Leaders are not perfect, better than everyone else, immune from failure nor always right. They are **equal in value** to but **different in function** than everyone else.

*“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.” Heb. 13:17*

## **Practical benefits of eldership**

1. Eldership or **plurality** of leadership is the function of a **body** vs the elevation of a single leader or second head of the church.

2. Eldership helps the church avoid **momentum and direction swings** that occur when a new pastor arrives after a transition.
3. Eldership provides **long term stability** of the local congregation.
4. Eldership allows pastors and other leaders to function in their **areas of gifting**.
5. Eldership increases the leadership **perspective** regarding vision, and problem solving.
6. Eldership promotes the **development** of the body.
7. Eldership is the **Biblical model** of leadership and thus church government is more easily understood when reading the scriptures.

*“Everything for the glory of God!” And that includes our church leadership structure!*