

Memory Verse

2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

GRACELIFE  CHURCH

**THE CHURCH HAS
LEFT THE BUILDING...**

**PART 4 – THE LEADERS
OF THE CHURCH PT. 2**

We looked at *believers in Jesus* as the church. The *structure of the church* is an organized organism. We are *family, structured around the Synagogue* model. We are now exploring the *leadership in the church*. God has ordained 2 leadership positions or offices:

Pastors/elders/overseers/bishops and ***Deacons***.

Last time we defined each position and looked at the qualifications for each, based on ***1 Timothy 3*** and ***Titus 1***.

1 Peter 5:1-5

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3not domineering

over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 5Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

A. *The Responsibilities of Church Leaders*

1. Pastors/Elders

a. *1 Peter 5:2a* - Provide, Protect, and Direct

A pastor *shepherds the people or flock* of God, of which he is one. This is the picture of a *shepherd taking care of his flock*. A shepherd *provides, protects and directs*. He provides spiritual food for the people. He provides direction for the flock and protection against wolves.

A. *The Responsibilities of Church Leaders*

b. *1 Peter 5:2b-3a, 5* - Humble and Willing Service

Elders or pastors are not to do these things under compulsion. This is a choice, conviction and competence on behalf of the one who leads. He is to *shepherd the flock*, not for gain; money, power, position, notoriety or to become famous, but with an ***eager heart or deep desire to serve.***

A. The Responsibilities of Church Leaders

He is *not to be greedy* or a *lover of money*. Yes, he must provide for his family. This has been and continues to be *one of the biggest problems in the church* for pastors and his family. Some men step out of the pastorate or get an additional job to *provide for family*. Some churches cannot *give their pastor enough*, so he has to get a second job, sometimes purposefully.

A. *The Responsibilities of Church Leaders*

He is not to be *domineering*! This is someone who *has complete control over another*. This can be translated "*lording over*" others. The pastor is not to be a dictator, *telling you what to do in every detail of your life*. Jesus is the example, and yes, *He tells us what to do and we should do it*, **He says** His under-shepherds are ***not*** to be *dictators*.

A. The Responsibilities of Church Leaders

Congregations **should** follow their leaders. ***Hebrews 13:17*** - **Obey** your leaders and **submit** to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to **give an account**. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. - That is why *God gave leaders to the church!*

A. The Responsibilities of Church Leaders

c. 1 Peter 5:3b - Be an Example

He is to be an example to the young, old, families, other leaders, singles, and more. His example should lead others to *live the Christian life* in their *family*, at *work* or *school*.

Remember, he is to manage his household well. One definition within “*manage*” or “*rule*” is to be an **example**. *Hebrews 13:7*

A. The Responsibilities of Church Leaders

d. *1 Peter 5:4* - Know His Reward will be from Jesus

Peter points to the return of Jesus and rewards he will receive - not on earth, ***but in eternity.***

Peter challenges the young to submit to church leaders. It is good to hear “thank you, good sermon, etc.” but he receives his *reward* from the Lord, not others.

Hearing “**Well done**” *should be his goal!*

A. The Responsibilities of Church Leaders

***e. 2 Timothy 4:1-5 - Preach
and Teach the Word***

2 Timothy 4:1-5

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: **2**preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and **teaching**. **3**For the time is coming when people will not endure sound [*healthy*]

teaching [*doctrine*], but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. 5As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

A. *The Responsibilities of Church Leaders*

Paul gives 5 things that *Timothy*, and by extension, pastors are to do:

- 1.** Preach the word – *including reproof, rebuking, exhorting with patience and teaching.*
- 2.** Always think clearly.
- 3.** Endure suffering.
- 4.** Do the work of an evangelist.
- 5.** Fulfill your ministry.

A. The Responsibilities of Church Leaders

Pastors are commanded to *preach and teach the word!* The spiritual food he provides is Scripture - *God's truth*. He *preaches and teaches God's word!*

It's like preparing a meal.



A. The Responsibilities of Church Leaders

**f. *Ephesians 4:11-16* - Equip
Others for Ministry**

Ephesians 4:11-16

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,
12to **equip the saints for the work of ministry**,
for building up the body of Christ, 13until we
all attain to the **unity of the faith** and of the
knowledge of the Son of God, to **mature
manhood**, to the measure of the stature of
the **fullness of Christ**, 14so that we may **no**

longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to **grow up** in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is **equipped**, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

A. The Responsibilities of Church Leaders

There are **4 gifts** described, and *apostles and prophets* are no longer around. God has given the *spiritual gift of evangelism* to some, and a ***shepherd/pastor – teacher***. The *shepherd or pastor-teacher* in Greek is one position. His goal is to **teach** you *who God is, help you grow in the grace, knowledge and love for God and of God*, and **equip** you to serve Him.

A. The Responsibilities of Church Leaders

2. Deacons

In *Acts 6*, the Apostles told the congregation to choose 7 men to *serve the Hellenized, or Greek speaking Jews*. While they were not called deacons, they were the **prototype. We saw their qualifications too. They *helped and help with ministry*, in a variety of ways then and today...**

A. The Responsibilities of Church Leaders

Some may be ordained. In *Acts 6*, the men gave the elders the time to pray, study, and preach the word. The laying on of hands, based in the Old Testament, was a visual example of a transfer of authority and recognition of this individual's ability for a position. They were not perfect, but they were sub-leaders under the care and authority of the elders.

B. *Questions that Arise About Church Leadership*

- 1. What about divorce when it comes to elders and deacons?**
- 2. Can women be in leadership roles?**

B. Questions that Arise About Church Leadership

It depends on what you mean by *leadership*. The term *leaders*, has become fuzzy over the years. If you mean the *pastor or elder of a church*, then the answer is **no**. There are times they should *get counsel from women*. But, if by leaders, you mean a Sunday school leader, youth leader, kids ministry, counseling, then **yes**, they can be *leaders*. But they must be in *submission to the leadership of the church*, which is **male**.

B. Questions that Arise About Church Leadership

I am a *complementarian*. God has created men and women equal in value, worth, dignity and gifting He has established a **unique role for each of the 2 genders**, in the **home**, and **church**.

B. Questions that Arise About Church Leadership

In *1 Timothy 3*, all of the words referring to overseers or elders are **masculine**. All of the words used are masculine. Sometimes "*man*" is *generic* for men and women, but *this context* is specific.

B. Questions that Arise About Church Leadership

1 Timothy 3 ESV: vs 1 - he; vs 2 - husband; vs 4 - he and his; vs 5 - his and he; vs 6 - he is used twice; vs 7 - he is used twice again.

This is just in the English. It is *more specific in Greek*. God says that elders, pastors, overseers, or bishops should be **men.**

See: 1 Timothy 2:8-15 and 1 Corinthians 14.

B. Questions that Arise About Church Leadership

I believe a woman can be a *deaconess*.

Romans 16:1-2 - I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, 2that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well. - The word “*servant*” is ***deaconess***.