

1 Peter Series

Lesson #146

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Leading the Church: Types of Government

1 Peter 5:1–4



1ST PETER

LIVING IN LIGHT
OF ETERNITY

1 Pet. 5:1, “The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder.

**πρεσβύτερος *presbuteros*
acc masc plur comp older;
elder**

1 Pet. 5:2, “Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers,”

**ποιμαίνω *poimainō* aor act impera 2
plur to shepherd, feed**

**ἐπισκοπέω *episkopeō* pres act part
masc plur nom to manage, oversee,
take care of**

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

***The Church
Ecclesiology***



Questions

- 1. Terminology**
- 2. When did the Church begin?**
- 3. How did leadership develop in the early Church as described in Acts?**
- 4. How did leadership develop in the early centuries of the Church Age?
What are the 3 basic forms of Church government?**
- 5. What are the scriptural terms used for biblical leaders?**
- 6. What are the roles of deacons and elders?**
- 7. How many elders should there be?**

1. Terminology

**ἐκκλησία *ekklēsia* congregation,
assembly, church**

- a. *ekklēsia* used in the Old Testament
Septuagint (LXX) for the assembly of
Israel**
- b. New Testament: *ekklēsia* is the body
of Christ, Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:24; 2:19**
- c. Christ is the Head of the Church
universal**

Questions

- 1. Terminology**
- 2. When did the Church begin?**

- 1. The Church did not exist in the Old Testament, because it was a mystery, a previously unrevealed truth. Eph. 3:2–6.**
- 2. Jesus spoke of the building of His Church as future in Matt. 16:18.**
- 3. The Church could not begin until after Christ's death and resurrection. Acts 20:28.**
- 4. The leadership/communication gifted leaders of the Church were not given until after the ascension. Eph. 4:8–11**

- 5. References that indicate a beginning at Pentecost: Acts 5:14; Acts 2:47.**
- 6. The Church began with the baptism by the Holy Spirit, the mark of the Church Age believer.**
- 7. Four groups received this gift at the hands of the apostles: Jews, Samaritans, Gentiles, Old Testament saints.**

Questions

- 1. Terminology**
- 2. When did the Church begin?**
- 3. How did leadership develop in the early Church as described in Acts?**

- 1. The leadership of the early Church resided in the apostles. Acts 2:37; Eph. 2:20.**
- 2. The appointment of the seven in Acts 6:1 set the division of labor between those ministering the Word and those doing the administration.**
- 3. Throughout Acts, the leadership is emphasized as “apostles and elders.”**

Acts 14:23, “So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.”

χειροτονέω

***cheirotoneō*,**

appoint;

προχειροτονέω

(procheirotoneō)

appoint

beforehand

πρεσβύτερος *presbuteros*

acc masc plur comp

older; elder

ἐκκλησία *ekklēsia*

Noun acc fem sing

congregation,

assembly, church

Acts 15:2, “Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question.”

Acts 15:4, “And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them.”

Acts 15:6, “Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter.”

Acts 15:22, “Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren.

Acts 15:23, “They wrote this letter by them: The apostles, the elders, and the brethren, To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings.”

***At this stage, no mention of deacons!**

Acts 20:17, “From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.”

Acts 20:28, “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”

ἐπίσκοπος *episkopos*

Noun

acc masc plur

**overseer, bishop,
guardian**

ποιμαίνω *poimainō* Verb

pres act infin

to shepherd, feed

Elder = office, reference to spiritual maturity

Bishop = The function of the office

Pastor = The spiritual gift and role, to feed the sheep through teaching

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What are the 3 basic forms of Church government?**

**The development of the monarchical
Bishop.**

**The one-leader model, from approximately
AD 100–sixteenth century.**

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Episcopal: Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran, Anglican, where bishops are the chief pastors of the churches.

ἐπίσκοπος (*episkopos*), overseer, guardian, bishop

Titus 1:7, “For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,”

Titus 1:5, “For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—

Titus 1:6, “if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.

Titus 1:7, “For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,”

1 Tim. 3:1, “This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.

1 Tim. 3:2, “A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;”

1 Tim. 3:8, “Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money,

1 Tim. 3:9, “holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.

1 Tim. 3:10, “But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless.”

1 Pet. 2:25, “For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the (Article) Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

Congregationalism

“Congregationalism is that form of Church polity which rests on the independence and autonomy of each local church. It professes to represent the principle of democracy in Church government, a polity which is held to follow from its fundamental belief in Christ as the sole head of His Church. All the members of the Church, being Christians, are ‘priests unto God’.”

~Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church

Westminster Confession: Presbyterian, 1643

Savoy Declaration 1658

V. These particular Churches thus appointed by the Authority of Christ, and intrusted with power from him for the ends before expressed, are each of them as unto those ends the seat of that Power which he is pleased to communicate to his Saints or Subjects in this World, so that as such they receive it immediately from himself.

IX. The Officers appointed by Christ to be chosen and set apart by the Church so called, and gathered for the particular administration of Ordinances and execution of Power or Duty which he intrusts them with, or calls them to, to be continued to the end of the World, are Pastors, Teachers, Elders, and Deacons.

Schleitheim Confession of 1527

“We are agreed as follows on pastors in the church of God. The pastor in the church of God shall, as Paul has prescribed, be one who out-and-out has a good report of those who are outside the faith. This office shall be to read, to admonish and teach, to warn, to discipline, to ban in the church, to lead out in prayer for the advancement of all the brethren and sisters, to lift up the bread when it is to be broken, and in all things to see to the care of the body of Christ, in order that it may be built up and developed, and the mouth of the slanderer be stopped.”

1611 Amsterdam, *A Declaration of Faith of English People*

London Confession of 1644

Second London Confession of 1677

New Hampshire Confession of 1833