

“Mark #9- Biblical Leadership”

What is it?

The Bible teaches that each local church should be led by a plurality of godly, qualified men called elders.

Where is it in the Bible?

Paul lays out the qualifications for elders in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Passages that evidence a plurality of elders in one local church include Acts 14:23, Acts 20:17, 1 Timothy 4:14, 1 Timothy 5:17, and James 5:14.

Why is it important?

- Biblical church leadership is important because, without it, God’s people are like sheep without shepherds.
 - Church structure helps us shepherd the flock of God well.
 - Church structure helps us to advance the mission of God well.

Two Biblical Offices: Elders and Deacons

Elders = Servant **Leaders**.

Deacons = Leading **Servants**.

Elders: Servant Leaders of the Church (Acts 20:28-32)

- Elders **lead** under the authority of Christ.
 - Elders belong to the **church**.
 - The church belongs to **Christ**.
- Elders **care** for the body of Christ.
 - Elders protect the church.
 - Elders nurture the church.
- Elders **teach** the word of Christ.
 - Elders must know God’s Word extensively.
 - Elders must communicate God’s Word effectively.
- Elders **model** the character of Christ.
 - The Primary Question: What will happen if the church imitates this leader?
 - In his personal life...
 - In his family life...
 - In his business and social life...
 - In his spiritual life...

What are the Benefits of a Plurality of Elders?

- Biblical accountability
- **Wisdom**
- **Balance**
- Burden sharing
- Sets an example for the church

Deacons: Leading Servants of the Church (Acts 6:1-7)

- Deacons **meet needs** according to the Word.
 - They arise from specific circumstances.
 - They assume accountability for specific commands.
- Deacons **support** the ministry of the Word.
 - Deacons **serve** elders so they can lead.
 - Deacons **lead** others so they can serve.
- Deacons **unify** the body around the Word.
 - Deacons demonstrate a **Christlike** character with a **mission** mindset.

Biblical Church Leaders are a Blessing, Not a Burden to the Church

- Church leaders **exalt** Christ as they display His love for the church.
- Church leaders **equip** and enable the Church to accomplish our mission in the world.

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