

**BIBLICAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP**  
**Part 3 – How It All Works Together**

**RECAP**

*The biblical model for church leadership structure is that a local church be...*

**Part 1 – Elders and Deacons**

*...elder led, deacon served,...*

**Part 2 – Congregation**

*... and congregation “ruled.”*

	<b>Elders</b>	<b>Deacons</b>
<b>Who?</b>		<b>Who?</b>
<b>Elders are...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Among other elders</li><li>● Men</li><li>● Men who want to serve as elders</li><li>● Men of character</li></ul>	<b>Deacons are...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Servants of character</li></ul>
<b>What?</b>		<b>What?</b>
<b>Elders...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Pray</li><li>● Preach and teach</li><li>● Shepherd</li><li>● Oversee</li><li>● Set a Godly example</li><li>● Raise up other elders</li></ul>	<b>Deacons...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Handle church growth</li><li>● Protect church unity</li><li>● Serve the needs of the church body</li><li>● Prioritize the mission of the church</li></ul>

(1 Timothy 3:8-13; Acts 6:1-7)

(Acts 14:23; 1 Timothy 2:12; Ephesians 5:22-6:4; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5; 2 Timothy 2:2)

**BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER**

**How do the elders relate to...**

- **Church staff**
  - Staff are not always elders
  - Some staff are elders (remember elders/overseer/pastor are used interchangeably in the New Testament)
  - Staff help execute the direction and oversight decisions of the elders
- **The deacons**
  - Support the destination set by the elders
- **“The Pastor”**
  - The Bible does not command that every local church must have a “senior leader” among the elders
  - Scripture does seem to give evidence of a distinct role among the elders as a primary public teacher:
    - Timothy came from outside the church and functioned in this capacity.
    - Paul wrote his epistle to Timothy with instructions for the church even though there were other elders there. He seems to have filled a unique function among the elders in Ephesus.

- Some elders were supported full-time by the church (1 Timothy 5:17-18; Philippians 4:15-18) and others worked other jobs.
- The letters to the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3 are addressed to the messenger of each church.
- The practice of supporting an elder financially and giving him the primary teaching responsibility in the church is NOT inconsistent with Scripture.
- A primary teaching/preaching pastor is still fundamentally one of the other elders.

- **The congregation**

- Five characteristics of the relationship between elders and church members<sup>1</sup>
  - Clear recognition – the congregation recognizes the elders as gifts to the church, elders recognize the God-given authority of the congregation.
  - Trust – the congregation should trust, protect, respect, and honor its elders. Elders must direct the affairs of the church faithfully and according to Scripture.
  - Godliness – elders are to be men of character who live as examples openly among and with those God has called them to lead.
  - Carefulness – elders must use their authority with the understanding the church belongs to Christ. Elders should cherish the church, treat it gently and carefully, and lead it faithfully for the glory of God.
  - Beneficial results –  
*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. (Hebrews 13:17)*
- A picture of elder-led congregationalism  
*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,<sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12)*
  - Elder-led → Gives the congregation job training
  - Congregationalism → Gives the congregation a job<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from *Understanding Church Leadership* by Mark Dever

<sup>2</sup> From *Understanding Congregational Authority* by Jonathan Leeman