

Church – The Beginnings, Part 17

Simply Biblical Church Leadership – Part 2

Acts 6:1-7 | 02/19/2017
NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP
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Links to Our Current Teaching Series and Previous Teachings:

Current Series: Church, The Beginnings → NLFJI.org/ACTS

Sections in Acts up to this point and a little peek ahead (similar to “episodes”):

Acts 1 → Transition from the Gospels to just before the day of Pentecost

Acts 2 → The Day of Pentecost, Peter’s Preaching, and the forming of the first church of Jesus Christ

Acts 3:1 – 4:31 → The Healing in the Temple (Miracles), More Gospel Preaching, More folks saved, Persecution and More Preaching of the Gospel

Acts 4:32 – 5:42 → Community of Faith, Finances, God’s Judgment against Ananias & Sapphira, Gospel Preaching, Miracles, Persecution, More Preaching, Community of Faith

Acts 6:1 thru 8:4 → Church Leadership Challenges, the Testimony & Martyrdom of Stephen, Scattering

Simply Biblical Church Leadership Structure – focus this week: Ephesians 4:11-16

1. The Leadership God gives to Benefit each local church family within the Body of Christ:

- a. Not only are they Gifted for this work, they ARE – GIFTS – from God for the church (yes, they are God’s Gifts to the church)
- b. Four-folded Gifted church leadership – (based upon the construct of the sentence in Greek) These are Categories of Functional Leadership Roles for and/or within the local church (see also 1 Cor. 12:28-31 → “... first apostles, second prophets, third teachers ...”)
 - i. Apostles (sent ones → equivalent to “missionaries”)
 - ii. Prophets (boiling over → prophetic role → warning/admonishing/convicting)
 - iii. Evangelists (Preaching / Proclaiming / Explaining the Good News – soul winners)
 - iv. Pastor-Teachers or Teaching-Pastors (shepherding/teaching/caring/nurturing)
- c. This is Pastoral-Eldership Leadership – 1 Peter 5:1-7 – Peter was an Apostle and an Elder

2. Their Goal: EQUIPPING the Saints FOR the Work of the Ministry:

Greek → καταρτισμός (katartismos) – (Strong’s Greek #G2677 → from #G2675)

This word refers to the restoring of anything to its original place; then putting in order, making complete, etc. Such as with healing of a broken bone, repairing a torn fishing net, or restoring broken people to their proper working order in Christ. Restoring and Repairing toward the goal of Usefulness, Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Fruitfulness. [go to: <http://bit.ly/G2675WS>] The Work of the Ministry → the word for “Service” or “Ministry” is the same as “Deacon” or “Servant.” → Energetic, Servant-hearted Servants of Christ, who have been Restored and are being Restored to their Proper Working Order & Fitting with Usefulness and Effectiveness.

3. Results of this Equipping → Ephesians 4:12-16

- a. Edification → Being Built up – Growth in Christ with each other, for each other
- b. Unity in Christ – according to the Word of God – “the Faith” (Jude 1:13)
- c. Maturity in our relationship with Christ, intimately, personally, together - Christ is ALL
- d. Doctrinal Purity, Doctrinal Soundness – no longer tossed to and fro by the winds ...
- e. Speaking the Truth in Love → Growth – Qualitative and Numeric Growth
- f. Every Christian engaged in doing their part, in Christ, per their gift(s) for Christ

4. How do they Accomplish this?

- a. Eldership, per 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9; 2:1 – must be able to TEACH They Teach, Instruct, and Proclaim - The Word of God – 2 Timothy 3:16-4:4 → Sound Doctrine (also see 2 Timothy 1:15 & 2:15 – and – Colossians 1:27-28) 1 Timothy 5:17-18 (“especially those that labor hard at Preaching & Teaching...”)
- b. By Example - 1 Tim. 3:1-7; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; Heb. 13:7,17

Acts 6:1-7 - Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. ²Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. ³Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of GOOD REPUTATION, FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT and WISDOM, whom we may appoint over this business; ⁴but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

⁵And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, ⁶whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

⁷THEN the WORD of God SPREAD, and the number of the disciples multiplied GREATLY in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Ephesians 4:11-16 - And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers (i.e.: *pastoring teachers or teaching pastors*), ¹²for the EQUIPPING of the saints FOR the work of MINISTRY, FOR the EDIFYING of the body of Christ, ¹³till we all come to the UNITY of THE FAITH and of the KNOWLEDGE of the Son of God, to a perfect man (COMPLETE PERSON), to the measure of the stature of the FULLNESS of Christ; ¹⁴that (AS A RESULT) we should NO LONGER be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE, by the TRICKERY of men, in the CUNNING CRAFTINESS of DECEITFUL PLOTTING, ¹⁵but, SPEAKING the TRUTH in LOVE, may GROW UP in all things into Him who is the HEAD — Christ — ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together BY what every joint supplies, according to the EFFECTIVE WORKING by which EVERY part DOES ITS SHARE, causes GROWTH of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

1 Peter 5:1-7 -- The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a FELLOW ELDER and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: ² SHEPHERD THE FLOCK OF GOD which is among you, serving as OVERSEERS, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; ⁴ and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

⁵Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for

"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

For the Qualifications of ELDERS and DEACONS ...

Please see **1 Timothy 3:1-13** (Elders Qualifications – 1 Tim. 3:1-7 / Deacons: 3:8-13)

Parallel Elder Qualifications → **Titus 1:5-9**

How the Biblical Community of Faith in Christ is supposed to be relate to their Elders:

Hebrews 13:7,17 → submit to, follow, and obey our Elders

1 Timothy 5:17-20 → Respect and Honor them; and hold our Elders accountable, as well

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 → Recognize our Elders, allow them to admonish us, esteem them highly for their labor, and be at peace with them and each other.

For more on this, please, go to: <https://NLFJI.org/ELDERS>