

Church – The Beginnings, Part 18

Simply Biblical Church Leadership – Part 3

Acts 6:1-7 | 02/26/2017

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

NLFJI.org

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: Roots of Leadership

1. Review (from last week)

See handout from last week (download at: <https://NLFJI.org/messages/?DID=284>)

2. Old Testament – the 70 Elders of Israel: Numbers 11:11-17,24-30

Moses was in the Role of chief Elder over Israel. The 70 became the standard ever after. God provided Israel with Eldership because of a crisis to help in the future, as well.

Eldership Leadership characteristics – compare with 1 Timothy 3:1-7 & Titus 1:5-9 (also see the Eldership Handout [download at: <https://NLFJI.org/elders>])

Overseer / Elders – leadership qualities – New Testament Model comes from Numbers 11

They are to be Examples to God’s Flock – leaders in their family and in the church.

Pastoral Elders are Male (must be able to marry one woman, or be married to one woman)

One of the Qualities or Characteristics that is NOT shared with deacons is Teaching.

In the New Testament Elders oversee the Spiritual Life of the local church:

Their Goal → disciples under their care are Growing in Christ according to His Word, Alone

→ according to Pure Doctrine / Sound Doctrine (see Ephesians 4:11-16 – especially vs. 14)

They Lead and Protect the flock (Acts 20:28-31)

[Example: mama bear with her cubs]

3. Deacons – compare with the Leaders of 1000’s, 100’s, 50’s, and 10’s

Exodus 18:13-26 - compare with 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-7

Deacons must be TESTED first, before entering in → apprenticeship

Deacons are UNDER the Authority of the Eldership

Deacons are Action Team Leaders (see Acts 6:1-7) Servant Leaders, leading servants that do ministry. Typically, physical, “rubber meets the road” kind of service.

They seek to Meet needs, now.

Deacons are Male (must be able to marry one woman, or be married to one woman)

Deacons can be Elders in Training – great reward of faithfulness

4. Why does God create and provide local church leadership?

ANSWER: God does not want complaints, and whining.

He wants us to seek Him for Solutions.

His answer is Godly Leadership: as in Acts 6:1-7 , in Numbers 11, and in Exodus 18

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.

⁷**THEN 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>

BIBLE REFERENCES for Today

ELDERS:

Numbers 11:11-17,24-30 - ¹¹ So Moses asked the LORD, “Why have You brought such trouble on Your servant? Why are You angry with me, and why do You burden me with all these people? ¹² Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth so You should tell me, ‘Carry them at your breast, as a nursing woman carries a baby,’ to the land that You swore to give their fathers? ¹³ Where can I get meat to give all these people? For they are crying to me: ‘Give us meat to eat!’ ¹⁴ **I can’t carry all these people by myself. They are too much for me.** ¹⁵ If You are going to treat me like this, **please kill me** right now. If You are pleased with me, don’t let me see my misery anymore.”

¹⁶ The Lord answered Moses, “**Bring Me 70 men from Israel known to you as elders and officers of the people.** Take them to the tent of meeting and have them stand there with you. ¹⁷ Then I will come down and speak with you there. I will take some of the **Spirit who is on you and put the Spirit on them.** They will help you bear the burden of the people, so that you do not have to bear it by yourself.

²⁴ Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. **He brought 70 men from the elders of the people and had them stand around the tent.** ²⁵ Then the LORD descended in the cloud and spoke to him. **He took some of the Spirit that was on Moses and placed the Spirit on the 70 elders.** As the Spirit rested on them, **they prophesied, but they never did it again.** ²⁶ Two men had remained in the camp, one named Eldad and the other Medad; **the Spirit rested on them**—they were among those listed, but had not gone out to the tent—and they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷ A young man ran and reported to Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.”

²⁸ Joshua son of Nun, assistant to Moses since his youth, responded, “Moses, my lord, stop them!”

²⁹ But Moses asked him, “**Are you jealous on my account? If only ALL the LORD’s people were prophets and the LORD would place His Spirit on [All of] them!**” ³⁰ Then Moses returned to the camp along with the elders of Israel.

1 Timothy 3:1-7 - This saying is trustworthy: “If anyone aspires to be an overseer, he desires a noble work.” ² An overseer, therefore, must be above reproach, **the husband of one wife, self-controlled, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an able teacher,** ³ **not addicted to wine, not a bully but gentle, not quarrelsome, not greedy—** ⁴ **one who manages his own household competently, having his children under control with all dignity.** ⁵ **(If anyone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of God’s church?)** ⁶ **He must not be a new convert, or he might become conceited and fall into the condemnation of the Devil.** ⁷ Furthermore, he must have a good reputation among outsiders, so that he does not fall into disgrace and the Devil’s trap.

Titus 1:5-9 - ⁵ The reason I left you in Crete was **to set right what was left undone** and, as I directed you, to **appoint elders** in every town: ⁶ **one who is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of wildness or rebellion.** ⁷ For an overseer, as God’s administrator, must be **blameless, not arrogant, not hot-tempered, not addicted to wine, not a bully, not greedy for money,** ⁸ **but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, righteous, holy, self-controlled,** ⁹ **holding to the faithful message as taught, so that he will be able both to encourage with sound teaching and to refute those who contradict it.**

Acts 20:28-31 - ²⁸ Be on guard for yourselves and for all the **FLOCK** that the Holy Spirit has **appointed you to as OVERSEERS, to SHEPHERD** the church of God, which He purchased with His own blood.

²⁹ I know that after my departure **savage wolves** will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ And men will rise up from your own number with **deviant doctrines** to lure the disciples into following them. ³¹ **THEREFORE BE ON THE ALERT,** remembering that night and day for three years I did not stop **WARNING** each one of you with tears. (Paul to the **ELDERS** of the local church of Ephesus)

DEACONS:

Exodus 18:13-26 - ¹³ The next day Moses sat down to judge the people, and they stood around Moses from morning until evening. ¹⁴ When Moses’ father-in-law saw everything he was doing for them he asked, “What is this thing you’re doing for the people? Why are you alone sitting as judge, while all the people stand around you from morning until evening?”

¹⁵ Moses replied to his father-in-law, “Because the people come to me to inquire of God. ¹⁶ Whenever they have a dispute, it comes to me, and I make a decision between one man and another. I teach them God’s statutes and laws.”

¹⁷ “What you’re doing is **NOT GOOD**,” Moses’ father-in-law said to him. ¹⁸ “You will certainly **wear out both yourself and these people** who are with you, because the task is **too heavy for you. You can’t do it alone**. ¹⁹ Now listen to me; I will give you some advice, and God be with you. You be the one to represent the people before God and bring their cases to Him. ²⁰ Instruct them about the statutes and laws, and teach them the way to live and what they must do. ²¹ But you should **SELECT from all the people ABLE men, GOD-FEARING, TRUSTWORTHY, and HATING BRIBES. Place them over the people as commanders of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens**. ²² They should judge the people at all times. Then they can bring you every important case but judge every minor case themselves. In this way you will **lighten your load, and they will bear it with you**. ²³ If you do this, and God so directs you, you will **be able to endure**, and also all these people will be **able to go home satisfied**.”

²⁴ Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said. ²⁵ So Moses chose able men from all Israel and made them leaders over the people as commanders of **thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens**. ²⁶ They judged the people at all times; they would bring the hard cases to Moses, but they would judge every minor case themselves.

1 Timothy 3:8-13 - ⁸ Deacons, **likewise**, should be worthy of respect, not hypocritical, not drinking a lot of wine, not greedy for money, ⁹ **holding the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience**. ¹⁰ And they must also be **TESTED FIRST; IF** they prove blameless, **THEN** they can **serve as deacons**. ¹¹ [Their] **wives, too, must be worthy of respect**, not slanderers, self-controlled, faithful in everything. ¹² Deacons must be **husbands of one wife**, managing their children and their own households competently. ¹³ For those who have served well as deacons **acquire a good standing for themselves, and great boldness in the faith** that is in Christ Jesus.