

1 Peter Series

Lesson #145

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Leading the Church: Development of Early Church

Leadership

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 and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

1 Pet. 5:2, “Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;”

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. Used over 100× in the Old Testament,
Deut. 31:30; Judg. 20:2**

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- a. Used over 100× in the Old Testament,
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- b. *MM*: It is the Septuagint (LXX) term for
the community of Israel, whether
assembled or no. In the Gospels the
word is confined to Matt. 16:18; 18:17.**

The Universal Church, the Body of Christ

Col. 1:24, “I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,”

Col. 2:19, “and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.”

Eph. 5:23, “For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.”

1 Cor. 12:27, “Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”

Eph. 4:4, “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;”

Eph. 4:12, “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,”

Questions

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

1. The Church did not exist in the Old Testament. Paul makes it clear that it was not foreseen or prophesied, but was a “mystery,” a previously unrevealed truth, that Jew and Gentile would be united in one body.

***In Reformed, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, and other theological systems, there is a spiritual form of the Church in the Old Testament and the Church in the New Testament is spiritual Israel.**

Eph. 3:2, “if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

Eph. 3:3, “how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,

Eph. 3:4, “by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),”

Eph. 3:5, “which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

Eph. 3:6, “that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,”

In Matt. 16:18 “will build” is future tense

Matt. 16:18, “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church [future], and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Matt. 16:19, “And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

The Church could not begin until after Christ's death and resurrection.

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.”

περιποιέω *peripoieō*

aor mid indic 3 sing

“to gain possession of something, acquire, obtain, gain for oneself”

The leadership/communication gifts of the Church were not given until after the ascension.

Eph. 4:8, “Therefore He says: ‘*When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.*’ ” ...

Eph. 4:11, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

Eph. 4:12, “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,”

References that indicate a beginning at Pentecost.

Acts 5:14 “And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,”

Acts 2:47, “praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. [Majority Text has “the church” in contrast to the 4 basic Egyptian manuscripts]

Objections from Hyperdispensationalists or Ultradispensationalism

**These put the beginning of the Church
after the day of Pentecost.**

**According to them, not earlier than Acts 9
when Paul was saved. Others not until
after Acts 28.**

**1. The Church as the body of Christ
replaces the physical body of Christ
following His ascension and the descent
of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2.**

2. Entry into the body of Christ is performed by God the Holy Spirit with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit at the instant of faith in Christ.

Rom. 6:3–6; 1 Cor. 12:13

1 Cor. 12:13, “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

3. This first occurs with the descent of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:1–4 as evidenced with the speaking in unlearned languages.

This occurs with the Gentiles in Acts 10:46; the Samaritans in Acts 8:17; and the Old Testament believers represented by the disciples of John the baptist in Acts 19:6.

The Church existed before Acts 9, which Paul persecuted.

Acts 9:4, “Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ ”

Gal. 1:22, “And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ.”

Gentiles were added to the Church in Acts 10.

Eph. 3:6, “that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,”

Col. 1:26, “the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.

Col. 1:27, “To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

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.

Eph. 2:20, “having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,”

Acts 2:37, “Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’ ”

Acts 6:1, “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.

Acts 6:2, “Then 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.’ ”

διακονέω *diakoneō*

pres act infin

to serve, wait on

Acts 6:3, “Therefore, 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;”

**καθίστημι *kathistēmi*
fut act indic 1 plur
to appoint, put in
charge, make, establish**

Acts 6:5, “And 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,”

**ἐκλέγομαι *eklegomai*
aor mid indic 3 plur to
choose, select**

**Elders: πρεσβύτερος *presbuteros* older;
elder**

**Acts 2:17, “ ‘And it shall come to pass in
the last days,’ says God, ‘That I will pour
out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and
your daughters shall prophesy, Your young
men shall see visions, Your old men shall
dream dreams.’”**

Acts 4:5, “And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes,”

Acts 4:8, “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders of Israel:’ ”

Acts 4:23, “And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.”

Acts 11:30, “This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.”

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.”

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

Eph. 4:11, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers;”

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**The development of the monarchical
Bishop.**

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

Polycarp 5:3, Epistle to the Philippians:

“Therefore it is necessary to refrain from all these things, being subject to the *presbyters and deacons* as to God and Christ.”

Polycarp differs from 1 Tim. 3 in that he uses the plural “elders” instead of the singular.

Ignatius writes in the early part of second century (AD 35–107). He's the third bishop of Antioch. Indicates a single bishop is already in place very early.

The quotes from the *Epistle to the Ephesians* are significant because they describe a single leader, Onesimus, who would have been the successor to Timothy, the apostle John, and perhaps others.

Eph 1:2, “I received your whole congregation in the name of God in the person of Onesimus, 4 a man of inexpressible love, and who is your bishop. 5 I ask in the name of Jesus Christ that you love him and all of you to resemble him. 6 For blessed is the one who has graciously granted you, who are worthy, to obtain such a bishop.”

2:1 ‘I desire him to stay for your honor and the bishop’s.

2:2 Therefore it is fitting in every way to glorify Jesus Christ, who has glorified you, so that having been put into proper condition in one act of obedience, and being subject to the bishop and to the council of elders, 9 you may be sanctified in every way.”

Eph 4.1, “Therefore it is fitting for you to run together in harmony with the mind of the bishop, which indeed you also do. For your council of elders, which is worthy of the name and worthy of God, thus is attuned with the bishop as strings to the lyre.”

Eph 5.1, “For if I in a short time experienced such fellowship with your bishop which was not human but spiritual, how much more do I count you blessed who are so united with him as the church with Jesus Christ, and as Jesus Christ with the Father, so that all things may be harmonious in unity”

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