

Living as God's People

LESSON 7: HOW DO WE WORK?

BIG IDEA: Living as God's people Requires Submission to the Authorities Jesus Established

5. Do you submit yourselves [in the spirit of love] to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

I. THREE _____ OF GOVERNMENT

EPISCOPAL (Roman Catholicism, The Church of England, Episcopal Church, Methodist Church)

- Power resides in the _____.
- The higher up the “_____” the more _____ an officer has.
- The _____ have little or no say in what happens.

What do you think happens with a system like this?

CONGREGATIONAL (Baptists, Pentecostals, Non-denominational Churches)

- Power resides in the local _____.
- The congregation is not _____ to others.
- People _____ all of what happens in their congregation.

What do you think happens with a system like this?

PRESBYTERIAN

- Power resides in the church _____.
- The church courts are _____ to each other.
- People _____ their officers, who _____ in the church courts (representative form of government).

II. THE TWO CHURCH _____

A. ELDER (Teaching and Ruling)

⁵This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— ⁶if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. ⁷For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, ⁸but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. ⁹He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. TITUS 1

- Elders are to be men of strong _____.
- This character is revealed in their _____ life.
- Elders are to be men who _____ and _____ the doctrines of the Church.
- Elders are to _____ and _____ the people.
- Elders are to be _____ in the lives of the people, addressing their spiritual needs.

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It is the responsibility of ruling elders, both individually and jointly, to guard and promote the spiritual welfare of the congregation. They are required by their office to visit the people, especially the sick, and pray with them, to comfort the sorrowing, encourage the weak, guide the wayward and the careless, and, in general, to discharge all duties in Christian love. (FOG, VIII, B, 2)

B. DEACONS

⁸Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. ⁹They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. 1 TIMOTHY 3

- Deacons must be people of strong _____.
- Deacons must _____ and _____ the doctrines of the Church.
- Deacons are to be involved in the lives of the people, addressing their _____ needs.

The diaconate shall be responsible for the congregation's ministry to those in material need or distress. It shall also encourage the practice of total stewardship among the members of the congregation. ... It shall have the care of the general property of the congregation, both real and personal. (FOG, VII, C, 1)

III. THE THREE CHURCH _____

A. SESSION

- Comprised of _____ and _____ elders in a local congregation.
- Exercises _____ authority for the peace, purity and prosperity of the congregation.
- Handles local church _____.
- Works in conjunction with the _____ for the well-being of the church.
- As the local church _____, it has authority over the _____.

B. PRESBYTERY

- Comprised of teaching and _____ elders within a _____ area.
- _____ local congregations to seek the peace, purity and prosperity of the congregations.
- Handles the discipline of the _____ under its care.

C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- Comprised of all teaching and ruling elders in the _____.
- Assists presbyteries and congregations to seek the _____, purity and prosperity of the Church.
- Serves as the _____ court in matters of church _____.

¹⁷Obey 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

- God commands us to _____ to our church leaders, _____ them.
- It is to our benefit to do this, so they _____ watch over us.
- Church leaders are accountable to _____. If they err, He'll take care of it.

LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE MEANS _____ AND _____ APPOINTED

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LEADERS

PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS:

- We are responsible to _____ officers who will serve _____ interests over people's interest.
- We are responsible to _____ the _____ of the elders

OUR MISSION

By God's grace we offer the life-giving gospel to the spiritually thirsty so they can worship the one, true God and grow in gospel understanding and practice.