

CALVARY DISTINCTIVES | SERVANT LEADERSHIP CLASS NO. 2 Class Notes

TOPIC: CHURCH GOVERNMENT | I. Authority in the Church | II. Authority in the Church | III. Assistance in the Church

Intro: In this class we will learn how *“Calvary Chapel differs from most mainline churches in its style of church government. Most denominational churches maintain either a congregational form of church government, a Presbyterian form, or an Episcopal form of running their churches. These three terms should not be confused with the denominations that bear the same names because other churches of different names share the same styles of government.”*

I. ADMINISTRATION IN THE CHURCH

A. The _____ Form – *episkopos*; lit. Bishop, Watcher, or Overseer. In **(1 Tim 3:1,)** Paul specifically refers to this role as a Bishop. *“This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.”*

1. The Title of _____ – In the Book of Acts, *episkopoi* are mentioned as being *“shepherds of the flock,”* imagery that is still in use today **(1 Pet 5:2; Eph 4:11)** – *Shepherds /Pastors*. The other passages from the NT describe them as *“stewards”* or *“administrators,”* and *“teachers,”* which are responsible for others.

2. The _____ of a Bishop – **(1 Tim 3:2-7)** lists a standard for those who desire to be a Bishop or Overseer. Mentioned first is the need to be **blameless**. This word summarizes many of the following traits: e.g., Husband of one wife, temperate, hospitable, not violent, given to wine, or greedy for money. *(As overseers all eyes are upon them because they are representatives God. Therefore, they have the responsibility to live a holy and sanctified life before God and man)*

a. The Overseer is to _____ his own house well (1 Tim 3:4-5).

b. The Overseer cannot be a _____ (1 Tim 3:6-7)

3. The Title of a _____ (1 Tim 3:8-13) – *diakonos*, lit. a minister, servant, or deacon. The term can be referred to as a **voluntary attendant**.

a. The role of a Deacon is quite similar to that of an Overseer but must be first _____ through **faithful service!**

i. *“Those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (1 Tim 3:13)*

ii. In the parable of the Talents, **(Matt 25:21), Jesus gives an important principle regarding faithful service: *“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant: you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’***

- b. **Deacons & Deaconesses** are _____ – For People, Needs, Facilities, & Prayer in the body Administration in the Church

4. The Bishop form of government is referred to as the Episcopal form – Basically, there is a bishop, or someone of similar stature if called by a different name, who oversees the churches, appoints pastors to pulpits, sets policy, and guides the vision of the local congregations.

- a. This style of government, which grew out of European monarchies, leaves little freedom for the local pastor or congregation to follow the leading of the Spirit.
- b. This form of government is used by the Episcopalian, Anglican, Catholic, Orthodox, and Methodist churches. It is controlled by a church hierarchy which may have differing names.

B. The _____ Form – *presbyteros*; lit. _____. The term is used 62 times in the NT. In **(Acts 14:23)**, says, *“So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.”*

1. Their _____ – The Presbyterian form of church government, which is typical in Presbyterian and Reformed churches, puts the decisions of church polity in the hands of a select group of elders (*the “presbytery”*) who are appointed in various different ways, depending on the church.
2. Their _____ – These elders are over the pastor, who in turn is over the congregation. The problem here too is that this system puts the God-appointed leader, the pastor, under some of those he is supposed to lead.

IMPORTANT FACT: *“The fact that the Episkopos and the Presbyteros denominations exist shows that there is _____ a clear definitive teaching about the correct form of church government.”* - Chuck Smith – Calvary Distinctives pg. 18, 2nd para.

C. _____ Rule – We must understand that there is **no example** of effective congregational rule within the scriptures.

1. This form of government arose throughout history.
2. Occurrences of this type of rule – Compared with rebellion **(Num 14:1-3)**
- a. **The Rebellion of Korah (Num 16:1-50)**
- b. The congregational form of church government is an _____ invention and appeals to our American sense of democracy. Basically, the congregation as a whole makes all decisions in these churches by voting on matters of importance and **appointing committees** from its ranks to run the daily operation of the church. –

Most Congregational, Baptist, Pentecostal, Brethren, and non-denominational churches are organized in this fashion. The congregation votes on hiring a pastor, votes on how to spend the money, and on anything else of importance. Although democratic people like the idea, *congregational forms of church government often wind up at best causing the pastor to be directed by the sheep he is supposed to lead, and at worst reducing the pastor to a _____.*

D. _____ Rule – This was the first type of rule that was initiated early on with the children of Israel. **God-ruled.**

1. **The change to Monarchy** – As the people of Israel wanted a King, like the surrounding nations (**1 Sam 8:1-22**).

2. (**1 Sam 8:4-5**) says, *Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, ⁵ and said to him, “Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”*

II. _____ **IN THE CHURCH** – Church government at Calvary Chapel is very **simple, not a complex bureaucracy.** Committees and sub-committees are essentially non-existent.

A. Calvary Chapel is more of and *Episkopos* form of church government.

B. At Calvary Chapel we believe that the _____ is responsible for the church, responsible to hear from God, and responsible to feed and love His people faithfully. (**1 Pet 5:2-3**)

- At Calvary Chapel Venice, ONLY the organization that is needed to run the church is instituted. **The Senior Pastor must be _____ - _____** He must also be _____ to God and the Elders of the church.

III. **ASSISTANCE IN THE CHURCH**

A. _____, (*aka assistant pastors*) are appointed in the larger churches to help the pastor care for the spiritual needs of the congregation, as are _____ to help the pastor care for the material needs of the church.

- **It is the _____ of the Elders,** individually and jointly, to _____ and _____ the faith and life of the congregation committed to their charge. Together with the pastor, they should encourage the people in the worship and service of God, equip and renew them **for their tasks within the church, and for their mission in the world (Eph 4:11-16).**

B. In addition, our churches have _____ as required by most states which vary in size depending on the size of the church, and which usually are **made up of mature Christian businessmen** who can advise the pastor with respect to the business operations and decisions of the church such as property management and investments.