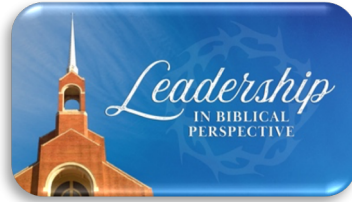


The Leadership / Officers of the Early Church

✘ The General & Prophetic Ministry: ⁴

1. Apostles ~ "Sent Ones"

- a. They Received Their Commission From Christ (Matthew 10:5; Galatians 1:1)
- b. They Has Seen Christ After His Resurrection (Acts 1:2-3, 21-22; 4:33; 1 Corinthians 9:1)
- c. They Enjoyed A Special Inspiration (Galatians 1:11-12)
- d. They Carried Supernatural Credentials (2 Corinthians 12:11-12)
- b. Their Chief Work Was the Establishing of Churches In New Fields (2 Corinthians 10:16)



2. Prophets ~ "Gifted With Inspired Utterance" (Acts 21:7-14)

3. Teachers ~ "Gifted In The Exposition of the Word" (Ephesians 4:11)

✘ The Local & Practical Ministry: ⁵

1. Pastor / Elder / Overseer / Presbyter ~ "Bishop / Shepherd" (Ephesians 4:11; Acts 20:17, 28)

2. Deacons ~ "Servant / To Minister" (Acts 6:1-7; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:8-13; 5:8-11)

3. Deaconesses ~ (Romans 16:1; Philippians 4:3; 1 Timothy 3:11)

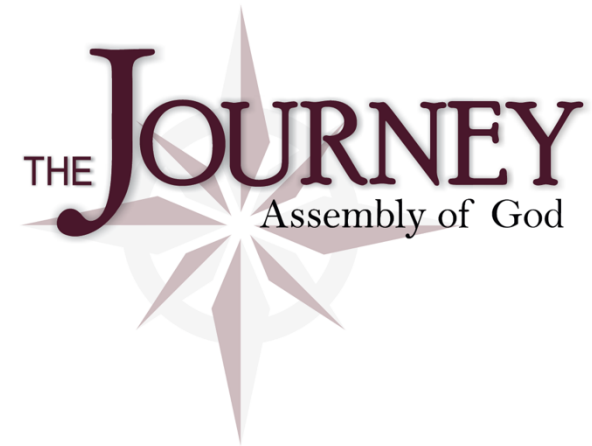
The Governmental Organization of the Church

✘ Episcopal

✘ Presbyterian

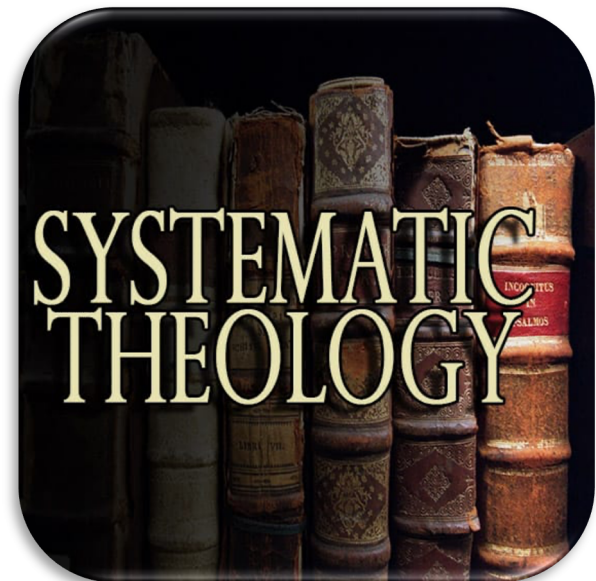
✘ Congregational ⁶

**May We All Gain An
APPRECIATION for the Biblical
Structure and Yet the Flexibility
of the Church of Jesus!**



MESSAGE GUIDE

*Speaker: Pastor Mark Geer
Sunday: May 5, 2024*



Message Talk Sheet

Date: May 5, 2024

Speaker: Pastor Mark Geer

SERIES: SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY
FOR DAILY LIVING

*"A Practical Look at the Study of God &
Elements of Biblical & Spiritual Truth"*

Today's Message:

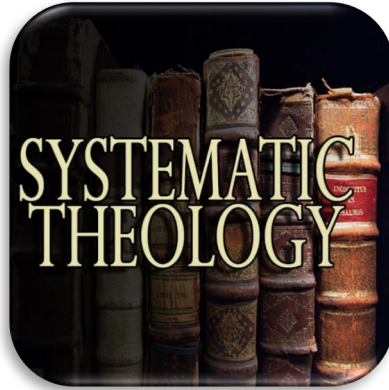
ECCLESIOLOGY (Part 13)

The Doctrine of the New Testament Church:

The Organization of the Church

"Its Government & Membership"

Scriptures: Acts 1:15-26; 2:38-47; 6:1-7; 20:17, 28; Ephesians 4:11;
1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-16



ECCLESIOLOGY ~ "The Doctrine of the New Testament Church"

Introduction

✘ A Healthy Church ~ Loving God / Loving Others / Growing Into The Image of Christ / United as the Body of Christ!

✘ 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

¹² For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 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. ¹⁴ For in fact the body is not one member but many.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

✘ God is a God of order, organization and purpose.

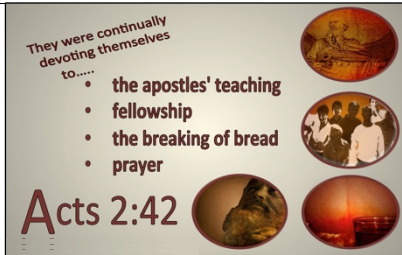
✘ We see this reflected in His Church – The Body of Christ.

↳ Acts 1:15-26 / Acts 6:1-7



The Fact of Organization

- ✘ The Believers Adhered to a Definite Doctrinal Standard (Acts 2:42a).
- ✘ The Church Met For Spiritual Fellowship (Acts 2:42b, 46)
- ✘ They Were United In Observing The Lord's Supper (Acts 2:42c; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34)
- ✘ They Were United In Prayer (Acts 1:14; 2:42d; 4:23-31)
- ✘ They Practiced Water Baptism for New Believers (Acts 2:38, 41; 8:12-13, 16, 38; 9:18; 10:46-48; 16:11-15, 30-34; 18:8; 19:3-5; 22:16)
- ✘ They Kept Account of the Membership (Acts 1:12-14; 2:44)
- ✘ They Took Care of One Another & Provided Material Help for the Needy Among Them (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; 6:1-7)
- ✘ They Met For Public Worship (Luke 24:52-53; Acts 1:13, 21; 2:46-47; 3:1; 12:12) ¹



The Development of Greater Organization

- ✘ They Had Church Officers (Titus 1:5f; Acts 6:1-7; 13:1; 20:17; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-8)
- ✘ They Had Stated Times of Meeting (John 20:19, 26; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Acts 20:7; Revelation 1:10)
- ✘ They Regulated Church Decorum (Matthew 18; 1 Corinthians 5:13; 14:26-40; 2 Corinthians 2:6) ²
- ✘ They Raised Money for the Lord's Work (1 Corinthians 16:1f; 2 Corinthians 8:1-9; 9:6-7; Romans 15:25-28; Acts 24:17)
- ✘ They Sent Letters of Commendation to the Other Churches (Acts 15:22-29; 18:24-28; Romans 16:1f; 2 Corinthians 3:1;)
- ✘ Yet all the while, as the church is becoming established, we never read in the New Testament of any push or motive for the merging of the churches into an ecclesiastical machine governed by a hierarchy. ³





✘ MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS TO...

- ❑ Read Acts 1-2 This Week ~ Reflecting on the early beginnings of the Church.
- ❑ Meditate on Acts 2:38-47 ~ The practices & disciplines of the Early Church.
- ❑ Study In More Depth The Leadership Roles of the Church ~ By reading the all the passages in the Message Guide concerning Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Elders/Pastors/Teachers, Deacons & Deaconesses.
- ❑ Pray for the Current Leadership of the Church ~ Hear at The Journey and across Oak Harbor, as well as the Assemblies of God and around the world (Bishops, Pastors, Missionaries, Evangelists, Denomination Leaders).
- ❑ Make a Faith Decision ~ Prayerfully place my **faith** in Jesus Christ, God's Son, by recognizing Him as my personal Lord and Savior and by asking and receiving the forgiveness of my sins.



ENDNOTES:

- ¹ Thiessen, Henry C., Revised by Vernon D. Doerksen, *Lectures in Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1949 – Revised in 1979, Reprinted February 1989), 318.
- ² Thiessen, Henry C., 319.
- ³ Pearlman, Myer, *Knowing The Doctrines of the Bible* (Springfield, MI: Gospel Publishing House, 1937, 1981), 362.
- ⁴ Pearlman, Myer, 363-364.
- ⁵ Pearlman, Myer, 364-365.
- ⁶ Dusing, Michael L., and others, eds, *Systematic Theology* (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1994), 547-552.



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