



SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

FBC Overview - Jesus, Saints, Members, Elders - Various Scriptures - October 26, 2025

SERMON OUTLINE

Pragmatism in 20th Century Southern Baptist Convention Churches:

1. Single Pastor (Elder)
2. Board of Deacons (Administrators)
3. Committee-Driven Ministry
4. Untended Membership Roll (unrepresentative of actual church)

Towards a more biblical model —

A. The Head of the Church and His Authority

Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. (Ephesians 5:23)

The church is not a human organization, it's a **body**. It's a living organism.

Jesus is the head of *this organism*, bestowing divine, supernatural life to the church.

The church, then, *should not be governed according the business trends of the day*, or to maximize profits or even participation.

We should be organized and structured in such a way that **Jesus Christ** is actually the one leading, guiding, governing us.

B. The Members of the Body and Their Authority

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you....(1 Peter 2:9)

Every member of the church is a PRIEST and a SAINT.

Biblical Metaphors for the Relationship of the Church with Jesus:

- The Body & The Head
- The Bride & the Bridegroom
- The Building & the Cornerstone

The Church has Authority to:

- Receive and dismiss members (see: **Matt. 18 & 1 Cor. 5**)
- Acknowledge and ordain its leaders (see: **Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12**)

C. The Elders of the Flock and Their Authority

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God. (Acts 20:28)

In the New Testament:

- **The Title (Noun)** is "elder" or "overseer"
- **The Job (Verb)** is "to shepherd" or "to pastor"

Biblical Elders - lead the church through **teaching God's Word** and **setting a godly example**.

So I exhort the elders... shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. (1 Peter 5:1-3)

"Among you" - the elders are meant to pastor their particular church, and no one else.

[The elder] 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 1:9)

"Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. (Acts 13:2-3)



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What are some church organizational structures that you've seen in your lifetime? What denomination or tradition did those come from? What were some positives and negatives?
2. Why is the NT so adamant that Christ is the head of the body? How should that impact our leadership organizational structures?
3. Who are the members of the church? Why is it important to know who they are?
4. What is the member's authority in the church according to the New Testament?
5. What is an elder? What do they do?
6. Would you spend time praying for our elders, and especially Robin Fulce tonight?