

Biblical Eldership: Part Three

Colossians 1:18

Big Idea: God established the structure of Biblical eldership to care for the Bride of Christ.

1. Christ is the Head of the Church.

Colossians 1:18

- He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

2. Delegated leadership is God's
design.

3. Leadership is for a purpose.

2 Corinthians 10:8

- “...about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you...”

Hebrews 13:17

- Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

1 Peter 5:2

- Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

Ephesians 4:11-16

And He gave some as apostles,
and some as prophets, and some
as evangelists, and some as
pastors and teachers,

12for the equipping of the saints
for the work of service, to the
building up of the body of Christ;

13until we all attain to the unity
of the faith, and of the
knowledge of the Son of God, to
a mature man, to the measure of
the stature which belongs to the
fullness of Christ.

14As a result, we are no longer
to be children, tossed here and
there by waves and carried
about by every wind of doctrine,
by the trickery of men, by
craftiness in deceitful scheming;

15but speaking the truth in love,
we are to grow up in all aspects
into Him who is the head, even
Christ,

16from whom the whole body,
being fitted and held together by
what every joint supplies,
according to the proper working
of each individual part, causes
the growth of the body for the
building up of itself in love.

4. The elder led model of church government is clearly reflected in the New Testament.



Principles and Application

- Because Christ is Head of the Church, we are cared for by a loving Lord. He is worthy of our worship and obedience.
- Because God has established a leadership structure in the body of Christ, one of the ways we submit to Him is by recognizing the God-given authorities in our life.
- Those who are in positions of authority have been given a great responsibility and opportunity.