

# CALVARY CHAPEL DISTINCTIVES

## Study #6 | The Form Of Church Government (Functioning As A Theocracy)

### Introduction:

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### A. Misunderstood By Many (as three basic forms, that man has developed)

- Episcopalian — Bishop-*only* led church (1 Timothy 3:1; Titus 1:7)
  - Warning: Matthew 20:25-28
- Presbyterian — Board of Elders-led church (Acts 14:23)
  - Warning: Ezekiel 34:2
- Congregational — Congregational-led church (Acts 6:3a)
  - Warning: Exodus 16:2 and Numbers 14:2
  - Warning: John 10:11-13
- NOTE: Elder, Overseer, Bishop, Pastor — all are the same office/person
  - Acts 20:17, 28 w/ 1 Peter 5:1-4
  - 1 Timothy 3:1 w/ Titus 1:5, 7

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### **B. Described In The Epistles**

- Jesus, the Head of the Church: Ephesians 1:22-23; 1 Peter 5:4
  - Jesus speaking to His Church through His Word: Acts 20:27
- Jesus governs, directs, and leads His Church by the Holy Spirit
  - Acts 13:1-2; 16:6-10; 17:16; 18:5; 19:21; 20:22-24; 21:4, 10-14
- Pastor-Teachers as God's primary leadership instrument:
  - Ephesians 4:11-12
  - 1 Timothy 5:17-18
  - 1 Peter 5:1-4
  - Revelation 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14

### **C. The Pastor-Led Model of Church Government**

- Model of Jesus's Leadership Style
  - Matthew 10:5; Mark 3:13-19; 10:42-45; John 15:15-17

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- John 20:21
  
- Model of Paul and the other Apostles
  - Acts 19:8-10; 20:4, 17, 29
  
  - 1 Corinthians 4:16; 11:1
  
  - 1 Corinthians 12:28-30
  
- Model of Timothy
  - 1 Timothy 1:3, 18
  
  - 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 15; 4:11, 13, 15-16, 18
  
- Model for Titus
  - Titus 1:5, 13
  
  - Titus 2:1, 15; 3:8
  
- Model of James
  - Acts 15:19, 25
  
- Model of the Ephesians Elders

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- Acts 20:28
- 1 Corinthians 16:19 w/ Romans 16:3-5
- 1 Corinthians 1:2 w/ 16:19-20
- Philippians 1:1
- Modeled After the Jewish Synagogue
  - Mark 5:35; Luke 13:14; Acts 18:17
- The term “overseer” only used in singular sense in Pastoral Epistles
  - 1 Timothy 3:1
- Pastor’s have potential for “lording over” the flock
  - 1 Peter 5:2
- Pastor’s have congregations “allotted” to them
  - 1 Peter 5:3
- The “messenger” of the individual churches in Asia Minor were used in singular in Revelation

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- Revelation 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14

### **D. Illustrated By Moses and Israel**

- Israel was a Theocracy:
  - Exodus 3:7-8; 15:1-2, 17-18
- God ruled primarily through a man named Moses:
  - Exodus 19:3-7
- 70 Elders appointed to help Moses:
  - Exodus 18:13-27
- Warning: Israel switched from a Theocracy to a Monarchy
  - 1 Samuel 8:4-7; 10:17-19

### **Conclusion:**

- Essential Safeguard: 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 8-12; Titus 1:5-9; Acts 6:3, 5

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