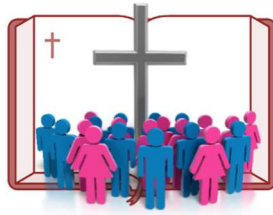


Being Baptist

"You have given me the heritage of those who fear Your name."
Psalm 61:5



Lesson 10

"THREE'S A CROWD" – PART TWO Two Church Offices: Pastors & Deacons Part Two: Pastors

LESSON AIM: To explain the biblical teaching that there are two, and only two, offices designated for the local church according to the New Testament.

- **WELCOME & PRAYER / LESSON INTRODUCTION / THEME VERSE / LESSON AIM**
- **QUICK REVIEW: LESSONS 1-9**
- **PART 1: THE BAPTIST DOCTRINAL HALLMARKS (Continued)**
 - The Baptist Distinctives
 - B – Biblical Authority & The Lordship of Christ
 - A – Autonomy of the Local Church
 - P – Priesthood of Believers
 - T – Two Ordinances: Baptism & Communion
 - I – Individual Soul Liberty
 - S – Saved Church Membership
 - T – Two Offices: Pastors & Deacons
 - S – Separation of Church & State
- **SEVENTH DISTINCTIVE: "T" = TWO CHURCH OFFICES (CONTINUED)**
 - Meaning of Two Church Offices (Review)
 - Key Reference: Philippians 1:1
 - Description: Pastors (also called bishops, and elders) and deacons are the two offices the Bible recognizes in a local church. Other church leaders are necessary but must not be equated with these two offices.
 - "Three's a Crowd": Biblically, there is the office of pastor-elder-bishop (one office) and the office of deacon (one office), but there is no "third church office" sanctioned in the N.T.
- **TWO CHURCH OFFICES - PART TWO: THE OFFICE OF PASTOR**

Biblically, there are three titles given to the principal spiritual leader(s) of a N.T. church: (1) pastor, (2) elder, (3) bishop. All three titles are descriptive of many *functions* but refer to only one *office*.

➤ Description of a Pastor

- “Pastor” = One Who Guards & Nourishes (Greek *poimén*: “shepherd”) (Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Pet. 5:1-5)
 - ✓ This represents the FEEDING role of a pastor
 - ✓ In this role, pastors protect the congregation from error & nurture them with God’s Word
- “Bishop” = One Who Administrates & Oversees (Greek *episkopé*: “overseer”) (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Tit. 1:6-9)
 - ✓ This represents the LEADING role of a pastor
 - ✓ In this role, pastors provide primary leadership & supervision to the congregation
- “Elder” = One Who Is Wise & Mature (Greek *presbyteros*: “elder”) (1 Tim. 5:17-19; 1 Pet. 5:1-4)
 - ✓ This represents the HEEDING role of a pastor
 - ✓ In this role, pastors provide mature counsel & spiritual guidance to those in the congregation

BIBLICAL TEACHING POINT: A careful study of Scripture clearly indicates that these three titles (pastor, bishop, elder) refer to the *same* person holding the *same* church office. “A Pastor is an Elder is a Bishop.”

➤ Qualifications of a Pastor (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Tit. 1:5-9)

- Role: Key Leader, Vision-Caster & Earthly Shepherd of God’s People (1 Tim. 3:1, 5:17; 1 Pet. 5:2-3)
- Reputation: Biblical Example of Righteous Living & Spiritual Maturity (1 Tim. 3:2 ,3, 6-7)
- Relationships: Loving Bond with Wife, Children & Strong Connection to Congregation (1 Tim. 3:2, 4, 7)
- Requirements: Called • Gifted • Committed • Accountable (1 Tim. 3:1, 2; Eph. 4:11-12; Acts 6:4; Heb. 13:17)
- Responsibilities:
 - ✓ As a Christ-Follower, he is to act as the primary spiritual leader of a New Testament church
 - ✓ As a Preacher, he is to pray, prepare, & minister the Word
 - ✓ As a Teacher, he is to explain the Word
 - ✓ As a Shepherd, he is to guard & care for the flock
 - ✓ As an Elder, he is to wisely counsel the flock
 - ✓ As a Bishop, he is to oversee the general operation & direction of the church
 - ✓ As a Pastor, he is to discern & articulate God’s vision for the congregation

➤ Acknowledgement of a Pastor

- The church is to provide materially & financially for a pastor (1 Cor. 9:13-14; 1 Tim. 5:17-18)
- The church is to seek the prayers of a pastor (Jas. 5:14)
- The church is to follow the leadership of a pastor (Heb. 13:7, 17)
- The church is to listen to, heed, & follow the biblical instruction of a pastor (Jas 1:22)
- The church is not to quickly or without serious cause accuse a pastor (1 Tim. 5:19)
- The church is to love, pray for, & seek to bless a pastor (Col. 4:2; Gal. 6:6; 2 Thess. 3:1).

• **FINAL THOUGHTS & SUMMARY OF TWO CHURCH OFFICES**

QUOTABLE QUOTE: “When the pastor and deacon body work in unison for the advancement of the kingdom, God is honored and His hand of blessing is apparent through unity, fellowship, and... baptisms. His will is accomplished, and the church is advanced forcefully against the darkness of evil” (Byron McWilliams, *Upon This Rock: The Baptist Understanding of the Church*, 2010).

• **SUMMATION / PREVIEW OF LESSON 11 / QUESTION & ANSWER TIME / BENEDICTION**