

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning – 9-12-21

What does the Bible say about the leadership and structure of the Church?
Plurality of Leadership Study – Part 1

1. Introduction:

a. Being prepared is important:

- 1) God has been so gracious to us.
- 2) A lot of work has gone on behind the scenes.
- 3) How does the Bible describe the leadership team tasked with leading the Church?

2. Our journey begins in Matthew 16:

a. What did Jesus say?

- 1) “church” – “ekklesia” – a called out group.
- 2) Jesus said, “I will build my church”
- 3) The “Church” is His plan and under His direction because He is the Head!
- 4) It is important to evaluate –

b. Why is this important?

- 1) Ephesians 4:23 –
- 2) Colossians 1:18 –
- 3) What does it mean that Jesus is the “head” of the church?

c. Some personal background:

3. Examples of church leadership models:

a. Congregational model:

b. Senior Pastor model

4. Pastoral Leadership Team – Plurality of Pastors model.

a. What is this?

- 1) It is a team approach to church leadership recognizing that God calls and equips men to serve His Church as Pastor/Shepherds.
 - a) Shared leadership provides –
- 2) Each New Testament Church is a local called out group of believers who are autonomous and self-governing and yet are under the direct headship of Jesus, the Chief Shepherd.

5. The responsibility of the Pastor/Shepherd

a. The terms are a clue:

- 1) Four terms – “overseer”; “elder”, “bishop” and “pastor/shepherd”
- 2) Acts 20:17-28 –
 - a) Verse 17 – “elders”
 - b) Verse 28 – “overseer”
 - c) Verse 28 – “feed”

b. Paul was specific here:

- 1) Verse 17 – “elder” – speaks of spiritual maturity and character of the spiritual leader.

2) Verse 28

a) “overseer” – to watch over, to guard, be in a protective position

b) “feed” – shepherd/pastor – tend, feed, guide

c) I Peter 5:2 -

3) This picture is about leading in such a way as to bring about spiritual health in the Body.

4) Similar challenge exists for believers toward one another. Hebrews 12:15

c. Two passage help to clarify this:

1) I Peter 5:1-2

2) Acts 20:17, 28

3) An easy to way to see this is:

a) Overseer/Bishop – That is what he does.

b) Elder – That is who he really is

c) Pastor/Shepherd – That is how he ministers.

6. Today’s Take Away: