

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning – 9-19-21

What does the Bible say about the leadership and structure of the Church?
Plurality of Leadership Study – Part 2

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) Jesus said, “I will build my church” Matthew 16:18
- 2) Jesus is the HEAD of the Church – Ephesians 5:23, Colossians 1:18
 - a) “Head” – authority over it and giving direction to it.
- 3) These spiritual leaders are described by:
 - a) “elder”; “overseer/bishop” and the word “feed”
- 4) Another way to see this:
 - a) “overseer/bishop” – That is what he does.
 - b) “elder” – That is who he really is.
 - c) “pastor/shepherd” – That is how he ministers.

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) Step 1 – see how God describes those He calls and equips to lead spiritually.
- 2) Step 2 – see how these leaders are functioning.

2. What is the model we see?

a. New Testament examples abound:

- 1) You see an example of more than one, a plurality of Pastor/Shepherds:
 - a) Acts 11:30, Acts 14:23, Acts 15:2, Acts 15:4, Acts 15:6, Acts 15:22, Acts 16:4, Acts 20:17, Acts 20:28, Acts 21:18, Philippians 1:1, I Timothy 5:17, Titus 1:5, James 5:14, I Peter 5:1-2.
 - b) You see a plurality of spiritual leaders working together and also some of their ministry responsibilities.

b. The continuity continues:

- 1) Acts 15:22, I Thessalonians 5:12-13, Hebrews 13:7, Hebrews 13:17

c. These spiritual leaders must be qualified.

- 1) These men must possess certain character qualities in order to serve the Lord and His Church in this office. I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9
- 2) When a spiritual leader is mentioned in the New Testament as providing leadership or their testimony that reflects the Lord, it is within the context of being a part of a plurality of spiritual leaders. Acts 2:14, Acts 6:5, Acts 6:8, I Corinthians 3:4-6; 3:9; 3:21-22

d. What about Paul?

- 1) How do you see Paul? A singular leader?
 - a) Paul in his ministry served in the context of being a part of a group of co-laborers.
 - b) Paul was sent out by church leaders as a part of a team.
 - c) Even towards the end of his life Paul submitted to his fellow Apostles.

2) Is there an example of a singular leader concerning the church in the Bible?

a) III John 10-11

e. Strengths of serving in plurality:

1) Accountability that Jesus is the Head of the Church.

2) What the New Testament directs for the local church.

3) Protects the church family when major decisions are made in plurality with these leaders.

4) The Church benefits from the unique gifting of each man.

5) There is accountability among the Pastors concerning spiritual growth.

6) There is accountability among the Pastors to guard against moral issues and false teaching.

7) Help in mentoring other Pastors the Lord raises up within the Body.

8) The Body can receive greater care.

9) The Church is blessed in having a variety of gifts among these men.

10) Greater help in the Church accomplishing the Vision and Mission.

3. Today's Take Away:

a.