

## Eldership in the Church

What does it mean and what's it all about?

Paul writes in

## 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

### English Standard Version

#### **One Body with Many Members**

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves<sup>[a]</sup> or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> For the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? <sup>18</sup> **But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.** <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts,<sup>[b]</sup> yet one body.

<sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, <sup>24</sup> which our more presentable parts do not require. But God

has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

## Ephesians 4

### English Standard Version

#### Unity in the Body of Christ

**4** I therefore, a **prisoner\*** for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup> But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,  
and he gave gifts to men.”<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>9</sup> (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup> **And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds<sup>[c]</sup> and teachers,<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry\*, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature**

manhood,<sup>[e]</sup> to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

\*Damian shared last Sunday how Paul saw himself as a slave of Christ. Completely and totally owned by Jesus. Why? For the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When Damian returns he will pick up with his teaching on the importance of the Gospel triumphant. Understanding what the Gospel is and why we are given the responsibility to share it is crucial to God's Kingdom work here on earth.

Also last Sunday Pastor Damian challenged us, as a congregation, to listen for the call of God and the movement of the Holy Spirit to serve in our Next Gen Ministry. About 8 people responded to that call and said Yes to Jesus to serve our young children and youth. This is just one way that we fulfill the Great Commission as we train up our youth and teach them to be obedient to things Jesus has commanded us to obey. We prepare them to hear God's call to serve the church and to bring the Gospel to the generations to come should the Lord tarry in His return. Therefore this is why we serve in the church and in the community in which we live, work, and play.

## \* 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

### English Standard Version

#### The Ministry of Reconciliation

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. <sup>12</sup> We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. <sup>13</sup> For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup> and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.<sup>[a]</sup> The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the **ministry of reconciliation**; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling<sup>[b]</sup> the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the **message of reconciliation**. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Learn About Jesus, Live Like Jesus, and Lead others to Jesus**

We have an image that we use here at Cornerstone and it sums up very well who we are as a body of Christ. It applies to us individually as members of the body of Christ here and corporately as a part of the body of Christ known as the Christian & Missionary Alliance and then as a part of the church universal. This statement truly embodies what we find in the Jesus command to share the Gospel and make disciples throughout the whole earth. This is God's mission.

## 2 Peter 3:8-10

### English Standard Version

<sup>8</sup> But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you,<sup>[a]</sup> **not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.** <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies<sup>[b]</sup> will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.<sup>[c]</sup>

## 2 Corinthians 6

### English Standard Version

**6** Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,  
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

**Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**

To be on God's mission we are to **Learn about Jesus**, Live like Jesus, and Lead others to Jesus. Learning about Jesus, knowing Him as the Son of God, knowing why He says that He is alone, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. To know Him and be known by Him. To be in a relationship with Him as Savior and Lord.

We are blessed here at Cornerstone with a Pastor and Elders who take God's word very seriously, and can preach and teach that word in a way that helps to build up and equip the body for God's mission. Being equipped is only one part of Learning about Jesus. Paul writes in **2 Timothy 2:15** to study to show yourself approved.

## 2 Timothy 2

### English Standard Version

#### **A Good Soldier of Christ Jesus**

**2** You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men,<sup>[a]</sup> who will be able to teach others also. **\*<sup>3</sup>** Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. <sup>5</sup> An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. <sup>6</sup> It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. <sup>7</sup> Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

<sup>8</sup> Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, <sup>9</sup> for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! <sup>10</sup> Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. <sup>11</sup> The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

<sup>12</sup> if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he also will deny us;

<sup>13</sup> if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

<sup>14</sup> **Remind them of these things, and charge them before God<sup>[b]</sup> not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers.** <sup>15</sup> Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, <sup>[c]</sup> a worker who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly handling the word of truth.** <sup>16</sup> But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness,

## Acts 14:20b-23

### English Standard Version

\* ....and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. <sup>21</sup> When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, <sup>22</sup> strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. <sup>23</sup> **And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.**

## Living Like Jesus

### Hebrews 13:7

<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

### James 5:14

<sup>14</sup> Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.

In the book, **“Eldership and the Mission of God”**, the authors Briggs and Hyatt refer to the purpose of Elders in the church in this way:

“...elders of the local churches are to be spiritual overseers, shepherds, teachers, and equippers serving as consistent and God-honoring models of what life with Christ looks like.”

“...but are called to equip God’s people entrusted to them in their local congregations to fulfill their God-given role in His Kingdom, operating as missionaries cleverly disguised as plumbers, teachers, stay-at-home parents, attorneys and the like.”

“The call of elders in a local church context is to faithfully lead God’s people by imaging the character of a missioning God.”

The life of an Elder in the church must reflect Jesus to the church and the greater community in which he lives. When Paul writes to Timothy about the qualifications for Elders in the church he writes in:



# 1 Timothy 3:2-7

## English Standard Version

### **Qualifications for Overseers**

**3** <sup>2</sup>Therefore an overseer<sup>[a]</sup> must be above reproach, the husband of one wife,<sup>[b]</sup> sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup>not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup>He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, <sup>5</sup>for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? <sup>6</sup>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. <sup>7</sup>Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

# 1 Peter 5

## English Standard Version

### **Shepherd the Flock of God**

**5** So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: <sup>2</sup>shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight,<sup>[a]</sup> not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you;<sup>[b]</sup> not for shameful gain, but eagerly; <sup>3</sup>not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup>And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. <sup>5</sup>Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe

yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

All of this is to culminate in the mission of God, and that is to reach all peoples with the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## Leading Others to Jesus

# Matthew 28:16-20

## English Standard Version

### The Great Commission

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in<sup>[a]</sup> the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

This is the command of Jesus for all Christians everywhere. It is to be the sole focus of the church and her members, whether single or married the mission is the same. It is the same for Elders, for Pastors, and for church members. We have come full circle. Even though we are different members of the same body our **“soul focus”** is to help others come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord. And we are not alone in this mission, as it is the mission of God’s own Son and we have heard His promise at the end of the Great Commission in Matthew.

# The Structure of Cornerstone Chapel

1.Members

2.Elders

Gary Strunk, Fred Spoelstra, Tim Mattson, Reinaldo Valentin, Charles Moltane

3. Deacons/Deaconess

4.Pastor and Staff

5.Constitution and Bylaws

How the church functions

Cornerstone Elders

1. Nominated by the nominating committee and affirmed by the congregation
2. Carry out the budget that the congregation has approved
3. Overseers
  - Give oversight to ministries and ministry leaders
  - Guard the teaching and doctrine of the church
  - Responsible for the spiritual life of the members
  - Give overall direction to the church

To Learn more about Cornerstone Chapel, I would encourage anyone to sit in on the Membership class, even if you are a member. It will be a good refresher as to the structure of Cornerstone Chapel and how function as a body of believers.

# 1 Timothy 3:1

## English Standard Version

**3** <sup>1</sup>The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.

Becoming an Elder is a calling from God, and the aspiration of the individual to that calling. As we heard in the opening word from Paul, we are all members of one body. 1 Corinthians 12:18 states”

**<sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.**

What part of the body are you being called to? Where has God chosen to place you? Perhaps an Elder, perhaps as a deacon, or perhaps as a Ministry leader. All are needed and all are vital to the body of Christ here at Cornerstone. Talk with anyone of the Elders about the calling on your life as a part of His body. Amen.