Intro: What authority has Christ established for the government of His church? What is the Model of church governance that we, the members of the church, are to subject ourselves to?

I. The Authority of the early church.

A. Jesus, the Savior of the body (the church), was and is and always will be the Head of the church! (cf. Eph. 1:22-23, 5:23; Col. 1:18)

1. Therefore, the true government of the church is a Theocracy. The true church was and is governed by Christ who is the Head and the Savior of the body!

2. Christ the leaders (Apostles) of the church and them by the Holy Spirit. (cf. Acts 1:1)

   a. Christ his disciples and them to carry out His will. (cf. Jn. 15:16)

3. Christ led the church by His authority to the Apostles by the Holy Spirit.

B. The Apostles as chosen by Christ the early church. And, the people recognized the church government as a Theocracy and subjected themselves to the authority of the Apostles.

C. Under the authority of the Christ-ordained Apostles, were in every church.

D. In the Theocratic form of church government, (being the Head of the church) governs the church by choosing and the leadership.

II. Apostles and elders.

A. An Apostle was one who was on a mission. “Capital A” Apostles were those who had been with and taught by Christ, and were personally sent out to establish His church.

   1. The Apostles as overseeing the church.

B. The term “elder” as used in relationship to the New Testament church referred to those whom the oversight (direction and) of individual churches was.

   1. Zodhiates defines “” as those “charged with exercising watchful over God’s church.” He goes on to explain this about the terms “elder, bishop, and overseer.” In the N.T. bishop, overseer, and
elder are names for the same official, which implies that the official function of eldership existed from N.T. times. The term “elder” is used synonymously with the term “bishop” as being engaged in the
______________ ___________. It is evident that same persons are called bishops, elders and overseers. “Elder” denotes the dignity of the office, and “overseer” or “bishop” denotes the duties and authority of the office.

2. Elder, presbyter, overseer and bishop all refer to the ________________ within the church. (cf. Titus 1:5 & 7; Acts 20:17 & 28)

III. The __________ of the Apostles and elders oversight.

A. Apostles and elders ________________ oversight of the church in the mode of ________________. (cf. Acts 6, 14, 15; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 4:1; Titus 1:5; Ja. 5:14)

1. Why plurality? Because there is only __________ and He is Jesus, the Christ! Apostles and elders have not purchased the church by the shedding of their blood. ... Therefore, those whom He has delegated His authority to work together in ________________ ____________ the headship of Jesus Christ.

B. There is __________ __________ passage which describes a church being governed by one pastor of supreme and unaccountable authority.

C. Today, we identify the congregation that subscribes to this Biblical model as an __________-________ church. A true elder-led church is given to the true Theocratic form of church government in recognizing ____________ as the sole __________ of the church.

IV. The church ________________.

A. Since the early church form of Theocratic government is the ________________ presented in the Scripture, we believe that it ____________ across the board for the church at all times in all places.

B. Today, we identify the congregation that subscribes to the Biblical model as an __________-________ church. A true elder-led church is given to the true Theocratic form of church government in recognizing ____________ as the sole __________ of the church.

Conclusion: We at HCF strive to follow the only form of church government modeled in the Scriptures. You, family, participate in a ________________ for this is an elder-led church where the elders operate in plurality under the ________________ of ____________.

Heritage Christian Fellowship
11104 Menaul Blvd. NE., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112
505.323.0557 - maxwell_timothy@hotmail.com