

“Church Government - The Biblical Model”

Selected Scriptures - 01.22.06

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

I. The _____ of the early _____.

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

1. Therefore, the true government of the church is a _____. 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 _____.

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