“The Biblical Role of Elders & Deacons”

Question 1: “What is the ____________ ____________ of church government that we the members of the church are to subject ourselves to?

Answer: Since Christ is the Savior of His bride body, He is the One Head of the church. Therefore, the Biblical model of church government is a ____________, as divinely governed by Christ.

Question 2: How did ________ administer His authority in the church?

Answer: By ____________ leaders whom He named ____________ and by directing them by the Holy Spirit. Then, under the authority of the Christ, the Apostles ordained ____________ in the local church who in turn ordained still other elders.

Question 3: How did the Apostles and elders exercise their ____________?

Answer: They exercised their authority in plurality with the many sharing in Christ’s authority ____________.

Question 4: How many church offices do the terms ____________, presbyter, overseer, shepherd, ____________, and bishop refer to?

Answer: ________.

Quote: “We at HCF strive to ________ the only form of church government modeled in the Scripture. Family, you participate in a Theocracy for this is an elder-led church where the elders operate in plurality under the ________________ of Jesus Christ.”

I. The ____________ ____________.

A. ____________ are to manage, _______ for, rule, have charge over, instruct, exercise oversight, shepherd (pastor), ____________, and watch over the souls of the church. (cf. 1 Timothy 3:1-5, 5:17; 1 Thess. 5:12; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2; Heb. 13:17).

B. The pastoral calling is a ________ ________ calling.

C. According to 2 Timothy 4:1-5, elders are to fulfill their pastoral ministry by:

1. ____________ the Word.
   a. If one is to preach the Word they must _________ the ____________. (cf. 2 Tim 2:15)
   b. The pastor must present the Word ______________.
      (cf. 2 Tim 1:8; 3:16)

2. Being ________________ in season and out of season.
3. Reproving, rebuking, and ________________.
   a. These must be measured out with great ________________ and instruction.

4. Being fully ________________ of the ________________ of the times.

5. Being ________________ in all things.

6. ________________ ________________.

7. Doing the work of an ________________.

8. ________________ his ministry.

II. There is another distinct ________________ in the church. It is the office of ________________. (cf. 1 Timothy 3:8-13 & Acts 6:1-6)

   A. The office of deacon functions to minister to the needs of the congregation, thus freeing the Elders to devote themselves to minister to the spiritual (pastoral) needs.
      1. The deacons’ duties of service are ________________ while the elders duties are well defined.

   B. The office of the elder and the office of the deacon is a ________________ hand in hand ________________ and harmonious ministry.
      1. Though the ministry of the deacon is to meet the practical service needs of the church, in so doing they actually ________________ elders in meeting the ________________ needs of the church by freeing them for pastoral ministry. Truly, it is a ________________ concept!

Closing: In an effort to follow the Biblical model, we at HCF have an official office called the Deacons’ ________________. It is the responsibility of those who are appointed to this ministry to serve the congregation by watching over the ________________ needs of the corporation, thus ________________ the elders to give themselves to pastoral ministry.

In the Theocratic form of church government, Christ, being the Head of the church, continually governs His church by ordaining the leadership. So, it is our high aim to ________________ recognize those whom Christ has chosen to serve as an elder or deacon and to faithfully ________________ them as leaders in Christ’s church.

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