

Titus 1:5-9, “Head of the church”

“This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order and appoint elders in every town as I directed you- ⁶if anyone is above reproach, a one woman man, and his children are faithful and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. ⁷For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, ⁸but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. ⁹He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.”

Introduction to the series

One year ago, the members of Cavalier Baptist agreed they wanted to restructure the governing leadership of this church. Therefore, a restructure committee was chosen to work on a new structure and present it to you when it is completed. Now, it is no secret many churches have many different types of leadership. So where should a church begin when it is seeking to change its leadership structure? This new series is meant to answer that question. And I will suggest to you the answers are laid out for us in the Bible.

In the following weeks we will look at the biblical data for church leadership within the New Testament. In other words, what did the churches do about leadership in the Bible? We will see that the two main offices of the church are *elders* and *deacons*, and each local church had multiple elders and deacons. We will examine why they're needed, what their purpose and responsibilities are, and who is qualified to be an elder or a deacon. Furthermore, we shall see that elders and deacons cannot function alone. We need participation from every one of our members. Therefore, we will not only examine the biblical data in regard to elders and deacons, but we will also examine the biblical roles of every member in the local church.

I. **God desires order in every structure (v5)**

“This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order

- a. God desires order in _____ (Genesis 1-2; Psalm 19:1)
- b. God desires order in the _____ (Genesis 2, Colossians 3:18-21)
- c. God desires order in _____ (Romans 13:1-7)
- d. God desires order in the _____
_____ (1 Tim 3:14-15, Titus 1:5, 1 Cor 14)

II. **“Appoint Elders” (v5)**

“This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order and appoint elders in every town as I directed you”

- a. Jesus is _____ of the church (Col 1:18)
- b. The offices of the church are _____ and _____ (1 Tim 3:1-12)
- c. Defective _____ is responsible for a defective _____ (Titus 1:5-9)
- d. The terms elder, _____ and _____ are three functions of the same office (Acts 20:17-28, 1 Peter 5:1-2)

III. Counsel of many (v5)

⁵ This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you

- a. Every local church should have _____ elders (Acts 14:21-23, Phil 1:1, Titus 1:5)
- b. There is _____ in the counsel of many (Proverbs 11:4, 15:22, 24:6)
- c. Multiple elders complement each other's _____ and _____
- d. No man can shepherd or protect the flock on his _____

IV. End of the Apostolic ministry (v6-9)

⁶ if anyone is above reproach, a one woman man, and his children are faithful and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. ⁷ For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, ⁸ but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. ⁹ He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it."

- a. _____ local churches either had or were told to appoint elders (Acts 14:21-23, Acts 15, Philippians 1:1, 1 Timothy 5:17)
- b. Faithful Elders were appointed in every church to carry on the _____ ministry (Acts 14:21-23, Titus 1:5-9)
- c. Those appointed to eldership must meet _____ qualifications (1 Tim 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9)

Family Discussion questions

1. Where do we see God's desire for order?
2. What are the two offices of the church?
3. What the other two interchangeable terms that describe the office of Elder?
4. Should churches have multiple elders? Why?
5. Why did the Apostles tell the churches to appoint elders?

Scripture Memorization for February

3 Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. **2** Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, **3** not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. **4** He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. **5** (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) **6** He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. **7** He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.