

1 TIMOTHY 3:2

1756

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

6 Not a novice, that being lifted up with pride, he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

8 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubleminded, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;

9 holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

10 And these must first be proved, that they may without blame use the office of a deacon.

11 Even so must their wives be proved, being faithful in all things.

12 Let the deacons be the rulers of their children and their own houses.

13 For they that have used the office well purchase to themselves a good witness, that they may be well purchased to themselves of great boldness in the face of the Lord.

14 These things require thee, that thou mayest be able to supply the lack of the apostles.

15 Be diligent in this exhortation, that thou oughtest to behave thyself to God, which is the church, the pillar and ground of the truth.

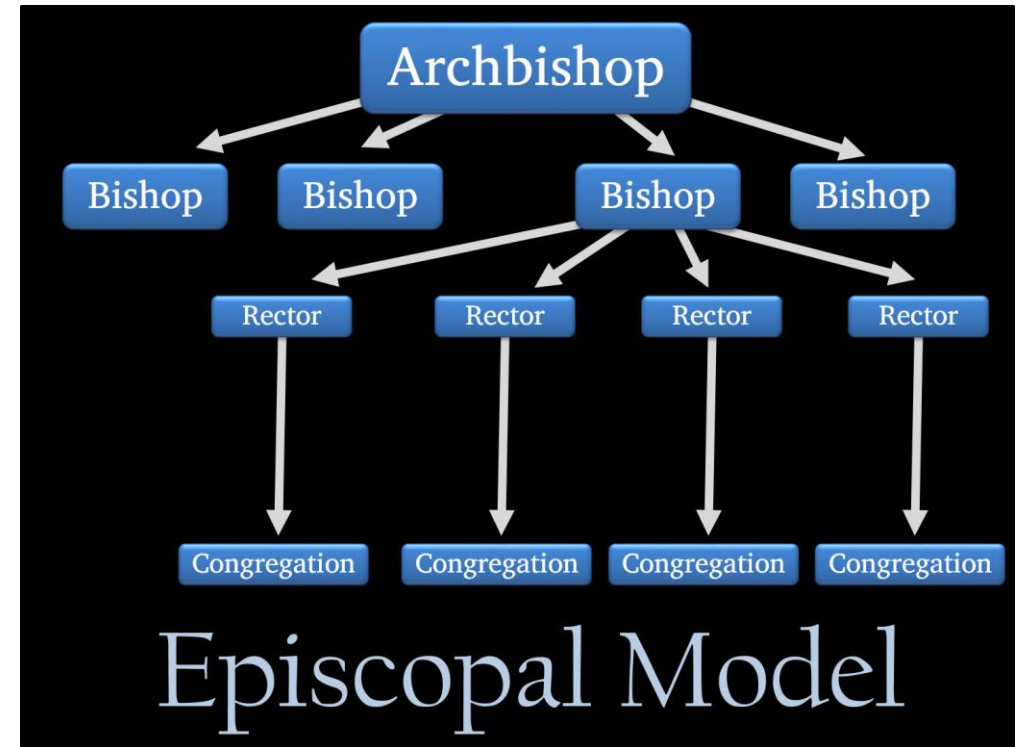
16 And without controversy manifested in the Spirit, without reproach, without contradiction, firm and unmovable, as the rock which was laid in the foundation, upon which the church is built, and which is the chief corner stone, in whom the whole building is joined together, and grows up with him, unto a holy temple, unto God, by the word of the apostles, which is the church, which is the pillar and ground of the truth.

Three Common Types of Church Governance

Episcopal, Presbyterian, Congregational

Episcopal

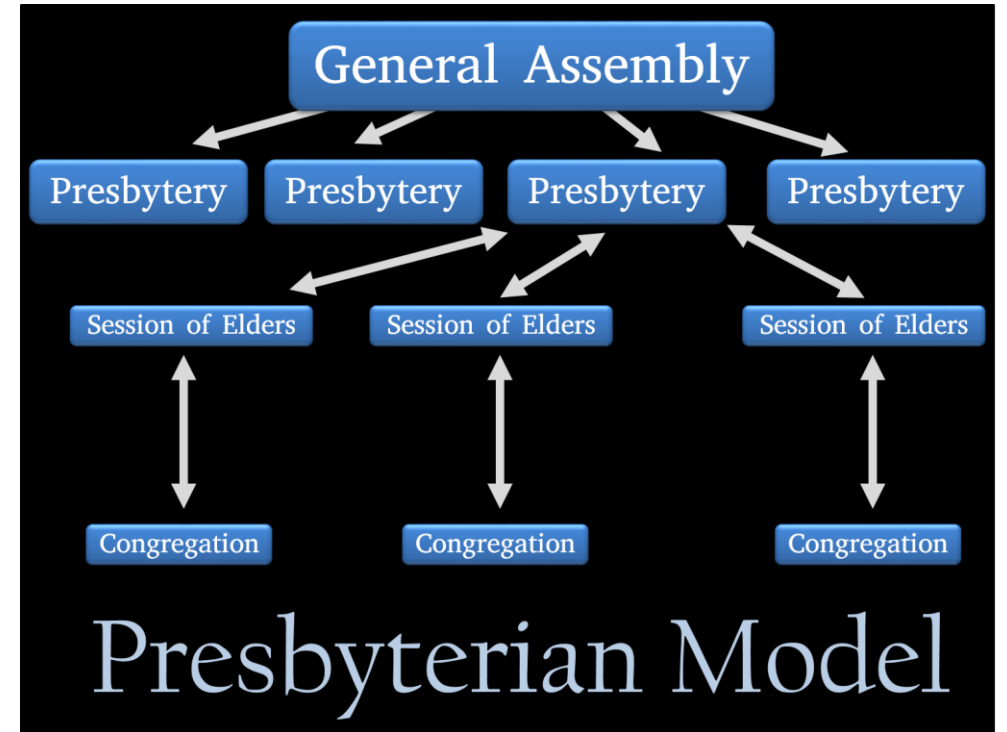
- Hierarchical
- Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Anglican, Orthodox, Methodist
- Strengths: control over false teaching, possibly expedites decision-making
- Weaknesses: no biblical basis, clergy/laity distinction



Presbyterian

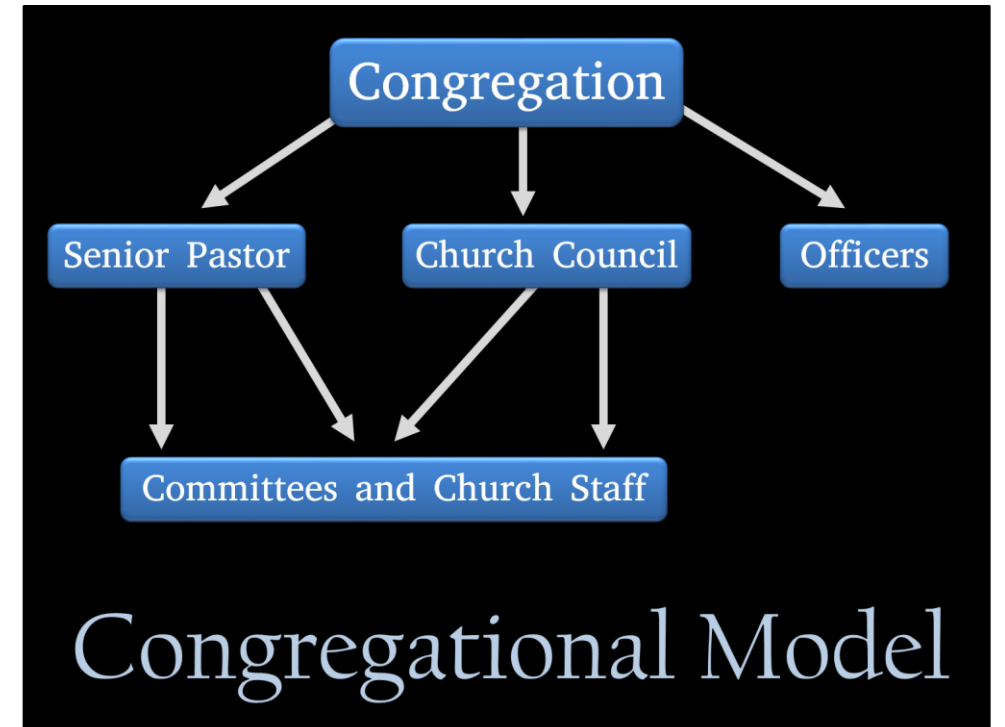
(elders, denomination)

- Elders, denomination
 - The elders oversee their local church, and some are also members of the *presbytery*, which makes decisions for all the church in the denomination.
- Presbyterian, Lutheran, Reformed, Assemblies of God, Nazarenes
- Strengths: closer to biblical model, lay people are involved, supports unity and good doctrine
- Weaknesses: a presbytery overseeing multiple churches is not biblical, lack of efficiency, local church can outsource ministry (lack of buy-in/support)



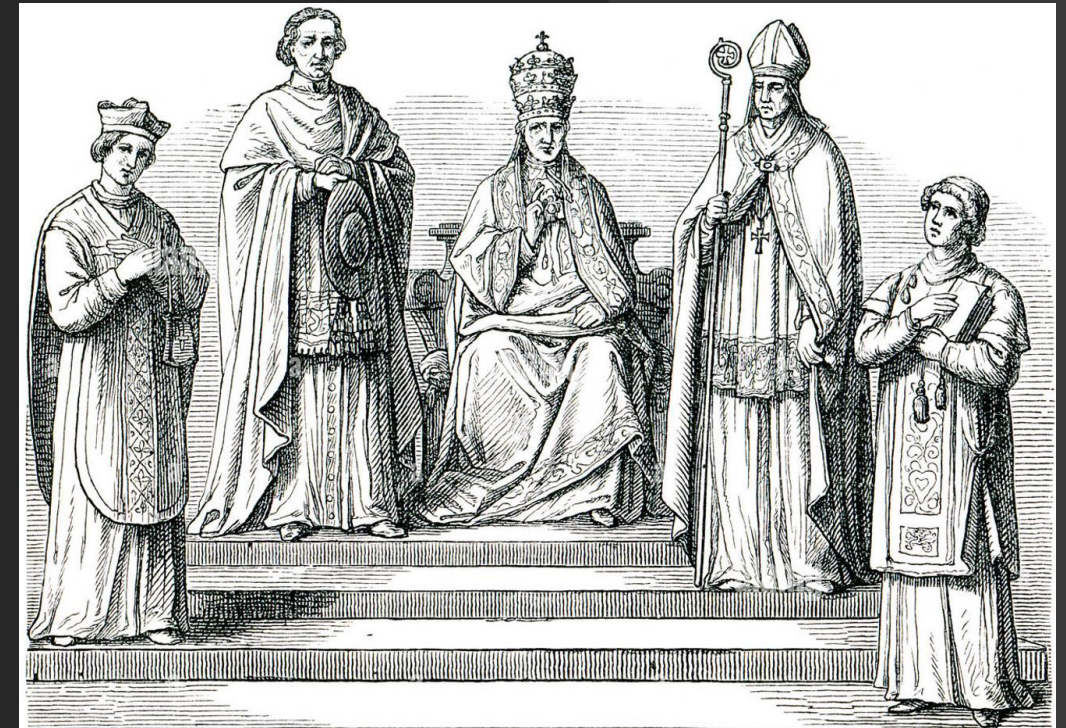
Congregational

- Christian Churches, Churches of Christ, Baptists, Non-denominational, Pentecostal
- All decisions made by the local congregation
 - Led by plurality of elders
 - Full realization of the entire body of Christ
- Strengths: Biblical model, leadership is accountable to congregation, narrows gap between clergy and laity, spirit of volunteering/financial support
- Weaknesses: unity with the larger body of Christ, doctrinal clarity, potential of concentrated power



Roman Government used as template for Roman Catholic Church

- Caesar renamed: **Pope**
- Roman Senators renamed: **Cardinals**
- Roman Governors renamed: **Archbishops**
- Roman Senator with no territory: **Bishop**
- (Large) Roman Province renamed: **Archdiocese**
- (Small) Roman Territory renamed: **Diocese**
- Imperial Chair of Jupiter where Caesar sat renamed: **Throne of St. Peter**
- Vestal Virgins renamed: **Nuns**
- Praying to a dead human god renamed: **Praying to a saint**
- Many more parallels...



American Congregational Churches

- President = Preacher
- Senators = Elders
- Representatives = Deacons
- Congress = The Board
- Democracy = congregational votes on issues (budget, elders, calling preacher, etc)



New Testament Church Leadership

- New Testament churches were led by a plurality of Elders in the local churches
- Presbuteros (elder, 13 times); Episkopos (overseer, bishop, 6 times);
 - Though presbuteros infers old age, it is used interchangeably with episkopos in NT
 - They became separate positions in some churches later.
- **Titus 1:5** This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint **elders (presbuteros)** in every town as I directed you - ⁶if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination.⁷ For an **overseer (episkopos)**, as God's steward, must be above reproach.
- **Acts 20:17** Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the **elders (presbuteros)** of the church to come to him... ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers (episkopos)** overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Elder, Bishop, and Pastor

“The New Testament only refers to the office of pastor one time (Ephesians 4:11). It is a functional description of the role of elder stressing the care and feeding of the church as God’s flock, just as “bishop/overseer” is a functional description of the role of elder stressing the governing or oversight of the church. We may conclude therefore that “pastor” and “elder” and “bishop/overseer” refer in the New Testament to the same office. This office stands alongside “deacon” in Philippians 1:1 and 1 Timothy 3:1–13 in such a way as to show that the two abiding offices instituted by the New Testament are elder and deacon.”

➤ John Piper

New Testament Church Leadership

- Appointing Elders in each Church
 - Acts 14:23
 - ²³ 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.
 - Philippians 1:1
 - ¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers (episkopos) and deacons:
- Two views of ministers/pastors/preachers:
 - Evangelists under supervision of elders
 - Ministers as elders
 - **1 Timothy 5:17** Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.”

Responsibilities of Elders

- Teach the Truth
 - Preaching and Teaching – I Timothy 5:17
 - Guard the Church from False Teachers – Acts 20:28-31
 - Including other Elders – I Timothy 5:19-22
 - Consider Doctrinal Issues – Acts 15:6-21
 - Examples to Congregation – I Peter 5:1-4
- Take Care of the Body
 - Shepherds of the Church – Acts 20:28,29,35
 - Pray for the Sick – James 5:13-15
- Lead and “Oversee” the Congregation



Deacons

- Diakonos – “the servants” or “the helpers”
 - used 29 times in the New Testament
 - Translated “Deacon” three times
 - Translated “Minister” seven times
 - Translated “Servant” 19 times
- Deacons as church ministry are only mentioned in
 - Philippians 1:1
 - I Timothy 3:8-12
 - both times with Elders.
- “The Seven”, a precursor and model for deacons
 - Acts 6:1-6

The example of the New Testament Churches

- No clerical or priestly hierarchy
 - Spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12)
 - the body of Christ works together like the parts of the human body
 - Priesthood of all believers – indwelling of the Holy Spirit
 - 1 Peter 2:5-9
 - all believers have the privilege of ministry
 - Ephesians 4:11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,
- No official titles
 - All Christians are saints and priests
 - some are apostles, elders, deacons, pastors, etc – but these are only descriptions and never used as formal titles in the New Testament
 - e.g.: Saint John, Elder Paul, Pastor James, etc.
- No hierarchy above the local congregation.

Distinguishing Features of Biblical Eldership

- Humble, servant character
- Shared oversight, Non-clerical structure
- Male leadership
 - But male and female deacons / deaconesses
- Congregational submission
 - Hebrews 13:17
 - ¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.
 - I Thessalonians 5:12,13
 - ¹² We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,
- Scriptural qualifications
 - I Timothy 3:2-7
 - Titus 1:5-10

	ELDER <i>I Timothy 3:2-7</i>	ELDER <i>Titus 1:6-9</i>	DEACON <i>I Timothy 3:8-10</i>
Faith			
Able to teach	X	X	
Holds to the truth		X	X
Not a recent convert	X		
Personal Characteristics			
Above reproach (blameless)	X	X	X
Upright, holy		X	
Temperate	X	X	X
Self-controlled	X	X	
Not violent, but gentle	X	X	
Respectable	X		X
Not quarrelsome	X		
Not a lover of money	X		
Has a good reputation with outsiders	X		
Not overbearing		X	
Not quick tempered		X	
Loves what is good		X	
Sincere			X
Tested			X
Personal behavior			
Disciplined		X	
Does not pursue dishonest gain		X	X
Not given to drunkenness	X	X	X
Hospitable	X	X	
Family			
Husband of one wife	X	X	X
Manages his own family well	X		X
Sees that his children obey him	X	X	X

1 Timothy 3:2-7: Elders

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

	ELDER <i>I Timothy 3:2-7</i>	ELDER <i>Titus 1:6-9</i>	DEACON <i>I Timothy 3:8-10</i>
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Not a recent convert	X		
Personal Characteristics			
Above reproach (blameless)	X	X	X
Upright, holy		X	
Temperate	X	X	X
Self-controlled	X	X	
Not violent, but gentle	X	X	
Respectable	X		X
Not quarrelsome	X		
Not a lover of money	X		
Has a good reputation with outsiders	X		
Not overbearing		X	
Not quick tempered		X	
Loves what is good		X	
Sincere			X
Tested			X
Personal behavior			
Disciplined		X	
Does not pursue dishonest gain		X	X
Not given to drunkenness	X	X	X
Hospitable	X	X	
Family			
Husband of one wife	X	X	X
Manages his own family well	X		X
Sees that his children obey him	X	X	X

Titus 1:5-9: Elders

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— ⁶ if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers 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.

	ELDER <i>I Timothy 3:2-7</i>	ELDER <i>Titus 1:6-9</i>	DEACON <i>I Timothy 3:8-10</i>
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Able to teach	X	X	
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Not a recent convert	X		
Personal Characteristics			
Above reproach (blameless)	X	X	X
Upright, holy		X	
Temperate	X	X	X
Self-controlled	X	X	
Not violent, but gentle	X	X	
Respectable	X		X
Not quarrelsome	X		
Not a lover of money	X		
Has a good reputation with outsiders	X		
Not overbearing		X	
Not quick tempered		X	
Loves what is good		X	
Sincere			X
Tested			X
Personal behavior			
Disciplined		X	
Does not pursue dishonest gain		X	X
Not given to drunkenness	X	X	X
Hospitable	X	X	
Family			
Husband of one wife	X	X	X
Manages his own family well	X		X
Sees that his children obey him	X	X	X

1 Timothy 3:8-13: Deacons

⁸ Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; ⁹ they must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ And let them first be tested; then, if they prove themselves blameless, let them serve as deacons. ¹¹ Women* likewise must be serious, not slanderers, but temperate, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons be married only once, and let them manage their children and their households well; ¹³ for those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

* Sometimes translated “women” (*NRSV, RSV, NIV, ASV, NASB, Wycliffe*) and sometimes “wives” (*KJV, ESV, Geneva*)

QUESTIONS?