

# Distinctive: Plurality of Spiritual Leadership

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## I. Various Forms of Church Government

A. Episcopalian ✗

B. Presbyterian ✗

C. Congregational ✗

D. Elder Rule or Elder Led (Crossway's View) ✓

1. Each local church is autonomous and has no outside governing authority on earth.
2. Shepherding responsibility and spiritual accountability rests with a plurality of recognized leaders in each local church.

## II. \_\_\_\_\_ of leaders

### A. Multiple elders for each local 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.

#### Acts 15:4

4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them.

#### Acts 20:17

17 Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him.

#### 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 and deacons:

#### 1 Timothy 5:17

17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

### James 5:14

14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

#### **B. No “senior pastor” (except for Jesus)**

### **III. Biblical \_\_\_\_\_ for local church leaders**

#### **A. “Elder”**

#### **B. “Overseer”**

#### **C. “Shepherd” or “Pastor”**

### **IV. The \_\_\_\_\_ of elders/overseers/shepherds**

#### **A. Authority is seen in the titles given to church leaders.**

#### **B. Authority is seen in the responsibilities given to leaders.**

### 1 Peter 5:1–4

1 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

### Acts 20:28

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

### Titus 1:7

For an overseer, as God’s steward, must be above reproach...

#### **C. Authority is seen in the responsibilities given to church members.**

### 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.

1. “Obey”
2. “Submit”

**V. Elders function as a \_\_\_\_\_ to lead the church**

**A. The team of elders unanimously agree upon decisions.**

**B. Individuals on the team of elders may have diverse activities.**

**1 Timothy 5:17**

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

**VI. \_\_\_\_\_ for church leaders**

**A. Elders keep each other accountable.**

**B. Church members keep elders accountable.**

Do you have **questions/comments** about *Crossway's leadership structure* that you would like to **discuss with a pastor**?

*\*\* We want to answer your questions! Notes you make in this box at the end of each section can help jog your memory on things to bring up when you meet with a pastor as part of Crossway's membership process \*\**