

THEOLOGY II: Doctrine of The Church

Session 4 - Mission Ministries Ordinances (part 2) - Dr. Jeremy Kimble

Blue Like Jazz... the second book by Donald Miller. (anti-church) This semi-autobiographical work, subtitled "Non-Religious Thoughts on Christian Spirituality," is a collection of essays and personal reflections chronicling the author's growing understanding of the nature of God and Jesus, and the need and responsibility for an authentic personal response to that understanding.

"I don't worship God by singing, I can meet with him elsewhere".
(I don't have to go to church, I can connect with God in the woods).

Jonathan Lehman (Pro-church) in response to Don Miller...

"I'm now an elder in a church with hour long sermons, several long prayers, lots of singing, membership classes, interviews and meetings. We talk about repentance, practice church discipline, and use phrases like "submitting to the elders". In fact Don it gets worse, I've written about these things, I've advocated for them. I've drunk the Kool-aid and then filled extra dixie cups to hand out.

Spiritual life comes by hearing, seeing and submitting... typically in that order. We hear God's Word preached, sung, prayed and counseled, we see it lived out in the lives of fellow Christian leaders, and we submit ourselves to the Word and these fellow sinners with their faults and excentricities in a local church. As my own pastors put it, "we admit that we are not the world experts on ourselves". We need one another and His word in order to see ourselves clearly and follow Christ. Life in the midst of a Word centered accountability giving fellowship is like throwing paint on the invisible man...

I don't know how we can say we love and belong to "the" church without loving and belonging to "a" church. Or say we want to connect with God but we won't listen to God's Word for only 45 minutes out of all the minutes in a week. Ultimately, it's like we're claiming we're interested in Christ but not bothering to put on that righteousness with how we live".

(He's trying to advocate there's benefit in joining a church and submitting to a church).

- **POLITY - Governance**

- Episcopalian - hierarchy
- Presbyterian - authority rests with elders
- Congregational - Elders, overseer, shepherd/pastor (one office) Final vote goes to the members.

CLASS EXERCISE

Look up Acts 20:17-35, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4

Who are these passages addressed to? The “one office” of Elder/Overseer/Pastor/Shepherd

What are they instructed (called) to do and be?

Shepherds. Serve in humility. Above reproach (not perfection but consistency in character, quick to repent, when an accusation is made it can't stick) Teaching. Watch out for wolves - protect your people from false teachers. Eager to serve. Sober minded. They shouldn't be argumentative. Hospitable. Shepherd your family. Not a lover of money. Do your job eagerly not for shameful gain. Self-controlled. Not given to much wine. (addictions)

Paul Speaks to the Ephesian Elders

*Now from Miletus he was sent to Ephesus and called the **elders of the church** to come to him. And when they came to him, he said to them:*

*“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. **Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for (shepherd) the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.** I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Acts 20:17-35*

Qualifications for Overseers and Deacons

Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle,

not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 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. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. 1 Tim 3:1-7

Qualifications for Elders

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— 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. 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, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. 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. Titus 1:5-9

Shepherd the Flock of God

*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: **shepherd (same word as pastor) 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; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 1 Peter 5:1-4*

*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. Acts 20:28*

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ELDER-LED CONGREGATIONALISM

- Acts 20:17-35, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4
 - Pastor, elder, and overseer are **synonymous** terms
 - They are tasked with the job of **teaching** and exercising **oversight** in the church (1 Tim 5:17; Heb 13:7, 17)

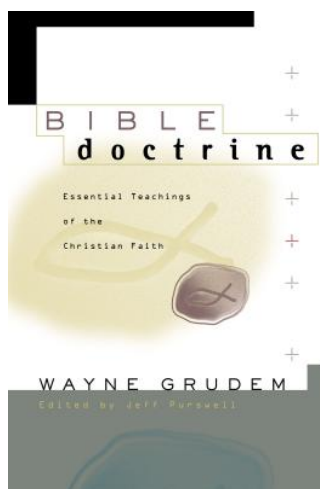
*Let the **elders that rule** (leadership) well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. 1 Tim 5:17*

- Churches should be **pastor/elder-led, deacon-served**, and congregationally **governed** (Acts 15; Matt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 5; 2 Cor 2:5-7)

DECON: servant ministry. Greeting, Hospitality, Visitation, Grounds Maintenance. No spiritual authority. Serve communion. Fill in the gaps. They can be women if they're not serving a dual role as elders. <https://www.9marks.org/journal/deacons>

*Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their **wives** likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. (or... women likewise must... in Greek it can mean either men or women. Did Paul mean wives or women?) 1 Tim 3:8-11 Romans 16 - Peobe.*

Bible Doctrine: Essential Teachings of the Christian Faith Hardcover – Abridged, July 12, 1999
by [Wayne Grudem](#)



CHURCH MEMBERS

- A local church is a group of Christians who gather regularly in Christ's name to officially affirm and **oversee one another's discipleship** in Jesus Christ and his kingdom through gospel preaching, gospel ordinances, and ongoing discipleship. They are led by biblically **qualified** elders to live on mission for Jesus Christ (Matt 16:18; 28).

Commitment between somebody and a Church to oversee and be overseen in their Discipleship.

*Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But **exhort one another daily**, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Heb 3:12-13*

Membership

- Images
- Leadership
- Submission
- Discipline
- "One another" commands