

Emphasis 4: NT Leadership: Roles, Titles, Models, Qualifications, and Development

Emphasis 4C: More About NT Leadership Terms, Functions & Offices

(Isaiah 58:12) “Those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins; You will raise up the age-old foundations; And you will be called the repairer of the breach, The restorer of the streets in which to dwell.”

- I. **Emphasis 0: Introduction to the Series: Rediscovering & Restoring the Pattern** (Acts 17:11-12)
 - A. **Restoring Biblical Perspective:** (Acts 17:1-7) (Matt. 5: 13-15; 16:18) (John 16:13; 14:26) (2 Tim. 3:16)
 - B. **Rediscovering the Pattern:** (Ex. 25:8-9, 40; 40:34-35) (Heb. 8:5) (Acts 7:44) (Eph. 2:19-22) (1 Chron. 13:1-10; 15:13) (John 13: 13-15; 14:12; 20:21) (1 Pet. 2:21) (Matt. 28:18-20)
- II. **Fifteen (15) Biblical Emphasis for Rediscovery and Restoration to Biblical Patterns** (See List Elsewhere)
- III. **Emphasis 3: Rediscovering & Restoring The Biblical & Historical Church** (Introduction to Ecclesiology) (Matthew 16:18) “ ... I will build My church; ...” (1 Peter 2:4-5, 9) (Quoted from Exodus 19:5-6.)

Review: Emphasis 3A, B & C: The Church in Word Pictures / Emphasis 3D: Understanding the NT vs. Modernism
Emphasis 3E: The Trinity as the Matrix for Community: The One & the Many
- IV. **Last Few Weeks: Emphasis 4: Define & Discuss NT Leadership Terms, Functions & Offices**
 - A. **Introductory Foundational Understandings:** Crucial w/ regard to Rediscovery & Restoration
 1. NT Leadership Terms are first Descriptive before Prescriptive (Growing from community life)
 2. NT Leadership Terms are first Charismatic & Functional before Hierarchical (Growing from...)
 3. NT Leadership Terms are first Organic before Organizational (Growing from community life)
 - B. **Priest & Priesthood: The Priesthood of All Believers** – (Exodus 19:5-6) (1 Peter 2:5, 9) (Revelation 1:6)
 1. Definition: ἱερεύς (*hiereus*) & ἱεράτευμα (*hierateuma*) - a priest, one who performs the sacerdotal function or belongs to priestly order. One who offers sacrifices and is entrusted with teaching the pattern of God’s ways, covenants, laws, etc.; in NT Epistles (i.e. early church usage) applied to Jewish or Gentile Christians, because, purified by the blood of Christ & brought into close intercourse w/ God, they devote their life to Christ alone, functioning in the roles of the fulfilled Priesthoods of Melchizedek & the Levites. (Ezra 7:10; Cf. Acts 1:1)
 2. Explanation: In New Testament All Disciples are called to serve as Priest under our High Priest, Jesus.
 - a. We have no inheritance in this world - The Lord is our Inheritance. (Josh. 13:33, Etc.)
 - b. Called to offer spiritual sacrifices made acceptable to God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Includes: Worship, Intercession, Spiritual Warfare, Declaration, Study, Teach, Testify, Etc.)
 - c. Called to have God’s Law written in our hearts and the fabric of our lives, so as to open the eyes of the blind, reconcile the alienated to His Community; and teach His Ways, Covenants, Law, Etc.
 - d. Many More Implications – All 7 Institutions of Government vs. Pietistic Gnosticism (Discuss)
 3. Note on the use of "Priest" in Old Testament, church history & movements. "Why can't we get along?"
 - C. **Overseers, Elders, Bishops & Presbyters** – Used Interchangeably Throughout NT / Always Plural πρεσβύτερος (*presbyteros*) / ἐπίσκοπος (*episkopos*) / ποιμαίνω (*poimainō*) (See Joshua & Judges: Charismatic) (1 Timothy 5:17) (Titus 1:5-7a) (Acts 20:17-18a; 28) (1 Peter 5:1-2, 5a) (1 Corinthians 12:28-29) (Eph. 4:11)

Qualifications:

(1 Tim. 3:1-7) It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer (ἐπίσκοπος / *episkopos*), it is a fine work he desires to do. ² An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach (διδασκτικός / *didaktikós*), ³ not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. ⁴ He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity ⁵ (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), ⁶ and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil (διάβολος *diábolos*). ⁷ And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil (διάβολος).

(Titus 1:5-9) ⁵ For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders (πρεσβύτερος / *presbyteros*) in every city as I directed you, ⁶ namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. ⁷ For the overseer (ἐπίσκοπος / *episkopos*), must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, ⁸ but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, ⁹ holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching (διδασκαλία / *didaché*), so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

(1 Tim. 5:17-22) The elders (πρεσβύτερος / *presbyteros*) who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages." ¹⁹ Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses.

Note: "All NT Elders (πρεσβύτερος & ἐπίσκοπος) / are Shepherds (ποιμαίνω) & Teachers (διδάσκαλος); but Not all Shepherds are Elders." (Explain)

D. Deacons (Deaconesses?) –

(1 Timothy 3:8-13) Deacons (διάκονος / *diakonos*), likewise *must be* men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, ⁹ *but* holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.

¹⁰ These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.

¹¹ Women (γυνή / *gynē*) *must* likewise *be* dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.

¹² Deacons must be husbands of one wife, *and* good managers of *their* children and their own households.

¹³ For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. (See Acts 6:1-8ff & Subsequent Development of Stephen & Phillip)

1. διάκονος (*diakonos*) – one who executes the commands of a master, a servant, attendant, minister; the servant of a king; a deacon, one who, by virtue of the office assigned to him by the church, cares for the poor and has charge of and distributes the money collected for their use; a waiter, one who serves.

2. γυνή (*gynē*) - a woman of any age, whether a virgin, or married, or a widow; a wife; of a betrothed woman. It is unclear whether this is a reference to deacon's wives (as in KJV & ESV) or deaconesses.

Note: We derive the word gynecology from γυνή (*gynē*).

(Romans 16:1-2) I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant (*Lit. deaconess*) (διάκονος / *diakonos*) of the church which is at Cenchrea; ² that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper (patron) of many, and of myself as well. (NASB / ESV) (Discuss Complementarian vs. Egalitarian debate. Family Roles. Etc.)

(Ephesians 4:11-17) ¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ... (Defined & Discussed Next Week, but consider for tonight's questions.)

Questions: The Importance of Elders, Shepherds & Administrators in the Local Church Body / Community

1. Discuss the importance of leadership in the local church in light of the following verses?
(1 Tim. 5:17) (1 Timothy 3:2g "able to teach") (Titus 1:9) (Hebrews 13:7, 17) & (James 3:3-4)
2. Why Train & Raise-Up Leadership Locally? How important is this? **Discuss "Head Transplants."**
3. Why should there be a Presiding Elder; aka Senior Pastors; aka Senior Minister (Clue: One & Many)
4. Why not only a strong Senior Pastor? Why is the term for Overseers always plural in the NT?
5. Why should the Founding Pastor graduate to an Apostolic Team Leader? (Acts 1:8; 13:1-5ff)
6. Discuss the 5 C's of Leadership. (Caller, Calling, Character, Charisma & Chosen) Is the order important?
7. Can you rebuke an Elder? Consider: (1 Tim. 5:1-2, 19-20) (Titus 3:10-11) (Matthew 18:15-18)

V. Upcoming: Shepherding, Discipleship (Raising Up Your Successors vs. Head Transplants) Eph. 4:11, Etc.