

Paul's 1st Letter to

Timothy

Chapter 3

Officers of the Church

Church Government

- Calvary Chapel

- Calvary Chapel differs from most mainline churches in its style of church government.
- Most denominational churches maintain either a congregational form of church government, a Presbyterian form, or an Episcopal form of running their churches.
- These three terms should not be confused with the denominations that bear the same names because other churches of different names share the same styles of government.

Church Government

- Congregational

- The congregational form of church government appeals to our sense of democracy.
- Basically, the congregation as a whole makes all decisions by voting on matters of importance and appointing committees to run the daily operation of the church.
- Most Congregational, Baptist, Pentecostal, Brethren, and non-denominational churches are organized in this fashion.

Church Government

- Congregational

- The congregation votes on hiring a pastor, votes on how to spend the money, and on anything else of importance.
- Although democratic, congregational forms of church government can end up causing the pastor to be directed by the sheep rather than leading them
- There is a danger that the pastor can be reduced to a hireling.

Church Government

- Episcopal

- Episcopalian, Anglican, Catholic, Orthodox, and Methodist churches (to name a few) employ the Episcopal form of church government,
 - From 'Bishop' 'Overseer')
- The church is controlled by a hierarchy which may have differing names (a bishop or similar), who oversees a group of churches, appoints pastors, sets policy, and guides the vision of the local congregations.
- Unfortunately, this can leave little freedom for the local pastor or congregation to follow the leading of the Spirit.

Church Government

- Presbyterian

- The Presbyterian form of church government, which is typical in Presbyterian and Reformed churches, puts the decisions of church policy in the hands of a select group of elders (the “presbytery”) who are appointed in various different ways, depending on the church.
- These elders are over the pastor, who in turn is over the congregation.
- The problem here too is that this system puts the God-appointed leader, the pastor, under some of those he is supposed to lead.

Church Government

- Moses Pastors?

- Doesn't the Calvary Chapel form of Church Government leave the church venerable to be led astray?
- What if the pastor doesn't follow God's leading?
- This is a mute argument as the same potential problem exists in all styles of Church Government!
- Moses was appointed by God!
- Those who criticised him were dealt with swiftly and sternly by God Himself!

The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

1 Peter 5:1-4

The Under-Shepherd

- Qualities of a Shepherd:
 - Labour!
 - Do you have the time to properly care for the sheep?
 - Sheep probably respond to care and attention more than any other farm animal!
 - For the most part the labour is not hard, but they require quality time and quality labour!
 - Timeliness of sheep-management tasks is very important!

The Under-Shepherd

- Qualities of a Shepherd:
 - Labour!
 - You must have time to do the job's when required and not put them off!
 - You must have time to observe the animals and recognise their needs

The Under-Shepherd

- Qualities of a Shepherd:
 - Attitude!
 - What is your attitude toward Sheep?
 - Do you like them?
 - Would you be willing to brave cold rains or snow storms to feed and care for them?
 - Would you be willing to miss a ball game or social event to be sure the sheep were protected from marauding dogs or coyotes?
 - Do you enjoy late night checks in the lambing barn?

The Under-Shepherd

- Qualities of a Shepherd:
 - Attitude!
 - If you do not have a positive attitude, do not read any further!

The Under-Shepherd

- Qualities of a Shepherd:
 - Things to know!
 - Lambing – do you know what to do with a new-born lamb?
 - Vaccination – can you recognise the important diseases?
 - Do you have a vaccination schedule?
 - Ram care – can you care for Ram's even during the non breeding season?
 - Weaning – do you know about the weaning process?

The Under-Shepherd

- Qualities of a Shepherd:
 - Things to know!
 - Internal & external parasite control
 - Every sheep has parasites!
 - Can you set up an effective control program?
 - Successful sheep production is primarily determined by what they eat

The Under-Shepherd

- Qualities of a Shepherd:
 - Things to know!
 - The 3 most important aspects of what they eat are:
 - Urbage mass (i.e. the quantity of the material in the pasture) – sheep need to get enough to eat!
 - Digestibility (i.e. the portion of feed an animal can actually use to satisfy its nutritional requirements)
 - sheep need food they can digest
 - Species Composition (i.e. the shepherd must take care that the sheep don't eat only what they want to eat, but what they also need) – Sheep need a rounded diet & they can't get stuck in one place eating forever

The Under-Shepherd

- Qualities of a Shepherd:
 - Things to know!
 - Sheep are ruminating animals, they chew their cud which is necessary for digestion.
 - Sheep get their nutrition from chewing the same food over a few times
 - Sheep must sweat in order to look good!
 - If they don't, their fleece won't stay in good condition
 - Sheep that don't sweat enough look a mess

The Under-Shepherd

- The Job of a Shepherd:
 - *“The job of a Shepherd is to feed God’s people the Word of God to fatten them up for the kill!”*
 - William Still (The Work of the Pastor)
 - We are to be living sacrifices unto God!
 - *“A true shepherd should be according to God’s heart in the way they serve and lead God’s people”!*
 - David Guzik

1st Timothy

Chapter 3

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

1 Timothy 3:8

- Deacons: translation of Greek word *diakonos*, “servant”
 - **Grave:** worthy of respect; worth imitating.
 - **Not double-tongued:** does not gossip. Not a sycophant; forthright.
 - **Not given to much wine** (as before).
 - **Not greedy of filthy lucre:** reliable to handle money.

Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

1 Timothy 3:9

- “A deacon who does not know the Bible is an obstacle to growth in a local assembly.”

- Chuck Missler

- Simply a successful or popular businessman, or generous contributor, doesn't necessarily mean he is qualified to serve as a deacon
- Paul and Apollos were called deacons.
- Stephen was appointed to the office of a deacon – to serve

The Roles of a Deacon

- 'Waiting on tables'
- Putting chairs out/away
- Setting equipment / hall up
- Serving tea & Coffee
- Setting up and overseeing crèche
- Giving others a lift to or from meetings
- Sunday School
- Worship ministry

Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure
conscience.

1 Timothy 3:9

- For those who serve, how well do you know your Bible?

12 Kingdom Mysteries

1. Mystery of the Kingdom of God
 - Luke 8:10; Mark 4:11;
2. Mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven
 - Matt 13:11
3. Mystery of Manifestation in the Flesh
 - 1 Tim 3:16
4. Mystery of Salvation by Faith
 - Eph 3:19; Rom 16:25,26; 1 Tim 3:9

12 Kingdom Mysteries

5. Mystery of the Will of God

- Eph 1:9

6. Mystery of Gentiles as fellow heirs

- Rom 16:25; Eph 3:3

7. Mystery of the Bride of Christ

- Eph 5:10; Eph 2:6; 1 Cor 6:17
- Cf. Col 1:26,27; 2:2; 4:3

8. The Mystery of the *Harpazo*

- 1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thes 4:12-18
- OT: Isa 26:19-21; Ps 27:5; Zep 2:3

12 Kingdom Mysteries

9. The Mystery of Iniquity

- 2 Thes 2:6-12

10. Mystery of the Seven Churches

- Rev 1:20

11. Mystery of Israel's Blindness

- Luke 19:42-44; Rom 11:25

12. Mystery Babylon (Counterfeit Kingdom)

- Re 17, 18 (Cf Gen 10:10, 1st mention)

Kept secret: Rom 16:25; Col 1:26; Eph 3:3,5;
1 Cor 4:1; 2 Cor 12:1-5; Gal 1:11-12;

Mysteries finished: Rev 10:7

And let these also first be **proved**; then let them **use the office of a deacon**, being *found* blameless.

1 Timothy 3:10

- **Proved:** Gr: *dokimazo* - to see whether a thing be genuine or not, as metals:
 - An untested Christian is an unprepared Christian
 - *A pilot doesn't really know his own qualifications until after his first real forced landing*
- “Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things..” **Matt 25:21**
- You use the office as a means to an end!
 - **As did Stephen! Acts 6:6-8**

Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

Acts 6:6-8

Training Periods

- **Joseph:** servant for 13 years in Egypt before becoming Prime Minister
- **Moses:** cared for sheep for 40 years before being called
- **Joshua:** Moses' servant before becoming his successor
- **David:** tended sheep when invited by Samuel to be anointed king of Israel

And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being *found* blameless.

1 Timothy 3:10

- Blameless: Gr: *anegklētos* - that cannot be called into to account, unproveable, unaccused,
- *“Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ”* 1 Peter 3:16
- Abstain from all appearance of evil!
 - 1 Thess 5:22

Even so *must their wives be grave*, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.

1 Timothy 3:11

- A chaste wives is a vital requirement for successful ministry
- **Grave:** Gr. august, venerable, reverend
 - to be venerated for character, honourable
 - of persons
 - of deeds
- “Slanderers”: Gr. *Diabolos*, one of the titles of Satan!

Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife,
ruling their children and their own houses well.
For they that have used the office of a deacon
well purchase to themselves a good degree, and
great boldness in the faith which is in Christ
Jesus.

1 Timothy 3:12,13

- **Degree:** military term: “rank; a rung on a ladder.”
- Elders were called from out of their own local congregations; they were not imported from other places.

These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly:

But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

1 Timothy 3:14,15

- **House:** “household”. Born again into God’s family:
John 1:11-13; 1 Pet 1:22-25
- **Pillar:** (In Ephesus, the great Temple of Diana had 127 pillars, each one of them a gift of a king)
- **Ground, bulwark:** the church is to protect truth and make sure it does not fall

The Church

Gr *ekklesia*, “assembly;” referring to the political assemblies in the Greek cities where business was transacted by qualified citizens. It means “those called out.”

Acts 19:29, 32

- It must be fed: on the Word of God.

Mt 4:4; 1 Cor 3:1-2; Heb 5:12-14; Ps 119:103

- A church does not grow by addition, but by nutrition

Eph 4:11-16

And without controversy great is the mystery of
godliness: God was manifest in the flesh,
justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached
unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world,
received up into glory.

1 Timothy 3:16



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