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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

*Hebrews 5:1-10  
Lesson #12  
Help in time of need  
03/24/2024*

1


## The majesty of Christ

# HEBREWS

**5:1-10**  
**A Holy Royal Priesthood**  
**(In what sense are all believers, priests?)**

2

### The dysfunctional church

- is where **members** are expected to look busy, act holy, and be happy as they show up, shut up and cough up. 
- is where the **ministers** minister and the congregation congregates to consume, complain, and criticize as they demand to be comforted and catered to.
- is where **people** are infected with bad cases of churchianity, bibliolatry, and individuality.
- is where **leaders** feel entitled to lord it over, manipulate around, and prey upon the sheep.
- is where **faith, hope, & love** are focused on anything and everything but the right thing.

3

### Human authority in the early church

*Acts 6*

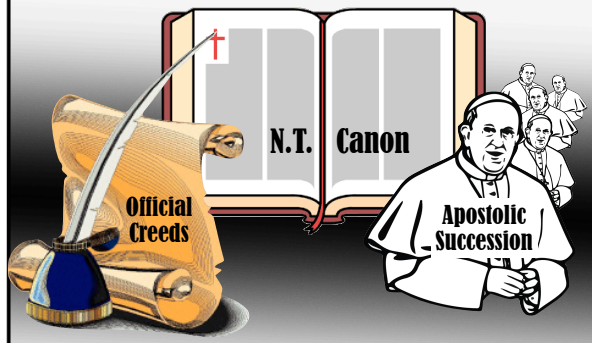
“2 And the **twelve summoned the congregation** of the disciples and said, “**It is not desirable for us** to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. 3 “But **select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.** 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.” 5 And the statement **found approval with the whole congregation;** and **they chose . . . .** 6 And these they **brought before the apostles;** and after praying, they laid their hands on them.”

4

*Acts 15*

“2 And when Paul and Barnabas **had great dissension and debate with them,** the **brethren determined** that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should **go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.** 3 Therefore, being sent on their way **by the church . . .**” 6 And the **apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter.** 7 And after there had been **much debate,** Peter stood up and said . . . 19 Therefore it is **my (James) judgment that . . .** 22 Then it **seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church,** . . . 28 For it **seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us . . .** 34 But it **seemed good to Silas** to remain there . . . 39 And there arose such a **sharp disagreement** that **they separated from one another,** and Barnabas took Mark . . . 40 But Paul chose Silas and departed, . . .”

5



*How did the early church respond to heresy?*

6

## How are we to understand leadership authority and structure in the church?

*Peter 2*

"4 And coming to Him as to a **living stone** which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 **you also, as living stones**, are being built up as a spiritual house for a **holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For this is contained in Scripture: "*Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.*" . . . 9 But you are a chosen race, a **royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

7

## Models of Theological Authority

Western church  
(Roman Catholic)

Pope



Eastern church  
(Eastern Orthodox)

Creeds



Reformation  
(Protestant)



Scriptures

Individuals

Individuals

8

## America's roots patriotic, democratic, protestantism.

Enlightenment  
ideals of reason  
and individual  
freedom



Common  
Biblical moral  
values and  
worldview



European religious  
wars heritage



Personal  
Liberty



External  
Authority

Small Representative Democracy

9

*John 20*

"21 Jesus therefore said to them (disciples) again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 **If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.**"

*This text may seem to support sacramental authority?*

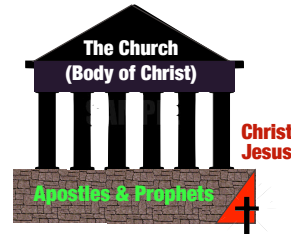
**But Apostles practice seems to NOT center on Peter (sacramentally) but on the whole Apostolic community (doctrinally).**

10

**Jesus is the rock upon which the church is built.**

**Apostolic Epistles reveal the details of its significance.**

**The believing community lives out and spreads the Word & Way of the Cross to the world.**



*Ephesians 2:20-21*

"having been built on the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the **cornerstone**, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy **temple** in the Lord."

11

## Priestly behavior?

**Aaronic (Levitical) Priesthood**

Jewish  
Mosaic Covenant  
Temporary

**Melchizedekian Priesthood**

Jesus  
New Covenant  
Eternal

**Believer's Priesthood**

Holy Spirit  
"in Christ  
by faith



12

## High Priest profile

*Hebrews 5*

“1 For every **high priest** taken from among men is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God, in order to **offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins**; 2 he can **deal gently with the ignorant and misguided**, since he himself also is beset with weakness; 3 and because of it he is obligated to offer sacrifices for sins, as for the people, so also for himself. 4 And **no one takes the honor to himself**, but receives it when he is **called by God**, even as Aaron was.”

*(interpretive paraphrase)*

“1 The Jewish high priest under the Law of Moses was a man who represented humanity and mediated between God and mankind by offering atoning sacrifices for sins. 2,3 Being a sinner himself, he empathized with sinners 4 and did not think of himself as superior. He viewed his priesthood as a system set up by God and not something he sought or earned.”

13

## Melchizedekian Priest profile

*Hebrews 5*

“5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to him, “*You are My Son, today I have begotten you*”; 6 just as He says also in another passage, “*You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek*.” 7 In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. 8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. 9 And having been made perfect, **He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation**, 10 being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.”

*(interpretive paraphrase)*

“5 Christ also humbled himself, even though he was the only begotten Son of God 6 and the eternal Melchizedekian Priest. 7 While in his human form he cried out to God and was raised from the dead because he was faithful in being an offering for sin. 8 Even though he had a royal title he earned his position through suffering. 9 And having finished his mission, he became the source of salvation for all who followed him, 10 being a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.”

14

## Church LEADERSHIP structure (a Berean perspective)

1. **Biblical teaching is sparse.** Major on majors not minors.
2. **Biblical teaching is inconsistent.** Context, context, context.
  - **The Jewish Synagogue's model.**
  - **Old and New covenant distinctives.**
3. **Principles of church function.** Form follows function.
  - **Priesthood of all believers.**
  - **Diversity is a part of God's design.**
  - **Order calls for leadership.**
  - **New Cov. holiness = inner (spiritual not material) issues.**
4. **Spiritual maturity.** Wisdom follows character, experience, and giftedness.

15

## The emphasis is on apostolic doctrine, not apostolic succession or sacramental acts.

*1 Peter 5*

“1 Therefore, I urge **elders** among you, as *your* fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, *and* one who is also a fellow partaker of the glory that is to be revealed, 2 **shepherd** the flock of God among you, exercising **oversight**, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to *the will of* God; and not with greed but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

16

## Three related words

*1 Peter 5*

“1 I urge **elders (presbuteros)** among you,”  
(This term has to do with “**character and maturity**”)

“2 **shepherd (poimen)** the flock of God”  
(This term has to do with “**function and activity**”)

“2 exercising **oversight (bishop) (episkopos)**”  
(This term has to do with “**authority and office**”)

The person  
in the position of **BISHOP** (noun)  
is an **ELDER** (noun) who **SHEPHERDS** (verb).

17

*1 Peter 5*

“5 You younger men, **likewise**, be subject to *your* elders; and **all of you**, clothe yourselves with **humility** toward one another, because God is opposed to the proud, but He gives grace to the **humble**. 6 Therefore **humble** yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 having cast all your anxiety on Him, because **He cares about you**.”

This is what “**Christ in me**” and  
the “**Way of the Cross**” looks like.

18

## The Roman Papacy evolved over time.

- While the Apostles were alive they controlled an oral tradition expanding on the Jewish Scriptures.
- The writings of the Apostles perpetuated this teaching after the Apostles death - New Testament.
- Local Bishops governed the various communities of the early church.
- The Bishop of Rome eventually came to dominate the Western church. Clement was the 1st Bishop of Rome.
- The Eastern Church never recognized the Roman Pope but drew its authority from the early church councils.
- All early church councils were called by the Eastern Church, not by Rome.

19

## The priesthood is "in Christ"

1 Peter 2

"4 And coming to Him as to a living stone (Jesus) which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 you also, as living stones (believer priests), are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For this is contained in Scripture: "Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed."

Psalm 18:2

"The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,"

(1 Sam.2:1-2, 2 Sam.22:2-3, Deut.32:3, Ps.18:31, 62:2, Isa.44:8, Dan.2:44-45, Ps.18:31, 62:2)



20

## Peter's role in the N.T. does not seem very papal.

- Paul confronted Peter for his misunderstanding of the Gospel of Grace to Gentiles.

Galatians 2:11

"But when Cephas (Peter) came to Antioch, I (Paul) opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned."

- James headed the earliest council of the church in Jerusalem.

Acts 15:19

"Therefore it is my (James) judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles,"

21

## Romans 12

"1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

**A call to priesthood behavior  
message - the Word of the Cross  
model - the Way of the Cross**

22

1 Peter 3:15

"but sanctify Christ as Lord in you hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

**#1 The "Word of the Cross"  
is a message of Mediation**

**#2 The "Way of the Cross"  
is modeling Meekness**



**This is what is expected of a believer  
as a Holy, Royal, Priest**

23

## Steve Ellis

Next week  
John  
20:11-18

The greatest  
evidence for  
the resurrection.

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