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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 Timothy 3:8-13
Lesson #9
Shepherding
06/18/2023

1

A dysfunctional church is:

- a **building or room** rather than the people who share the image of God and Christ's Spirit.
- a **meeting people go to on Sunday** rather than the community they are a part of every day.
- a **liturgical sacrament** rather than the communion of spiritual gifts and lives as the Body of Christ.
- a **social sect** rather than a worldwide spiritual family.

2

A dysfunctional church is where:

- the **ministers minister and the congregation congregates** to consume, complain, and criticize as it demands to be comforted and catered to.
- **members are expected** to look busy, act holy, and be happy as they show up, shut up and cough up in support of the shepherds.
- **leaders feel entitled** to lord it over, manipulate around, and prey upon the sheep.

3

The model "N.T. church"?

Acts 2

"42 And they were continually **devoting** themselves to the **apostles' teaching** and to the breaking of bread and to **prayer**. 43 And everyone kept feeling a sense of **awe**; and many **wonders and signs** were taking place through the apostles. 44 And all those who had believed were together, and **had all things in common**; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. 46 And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, . . . with **gladness and sincerity** of heart, 47 **praising God**, and **having favor** with all the people. And the Lord was **adding to their number** day by day those who were being saved."

4

What should a healthy church provide?

Vital **relational** experiences

Vital **learning** experiences

Vital **worship** experiences

Vital **ministry** experiences

Teaching
↓
Community
↑
Worship
↓
Spiritual gifts
↑
to
↓
outside within

5

A functional church has:

Ephesians 4

"11 And He gave some as **apostles**, and **some as prophets**, and **some as evangelists**, and **some as pastors and teachers**, 12 **for the equipping of the saints for the work of service**, to the building up of the body of Christ;"

1. Clear Calling
2. Spiritual Shepherds
3. Ministering Members

6

Under shepherds are needed to maintain a healthy church.

“shepherd (POIMEN)”

(This term has to do with “function and activity”)

Psalm 23

“1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2 He makes me **lie down in green pastures**; He **leads me beside quiet waters**. 3 He **restores** my soul; He **guides** me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are **with** me; Your rod and Your staff, they **comfort** me.”

7

GLOSSARY

All Christians

“believer”
“disciple”
“saint”
“alien”
“brethren”

Spiritual Leaders

“shepherd”
“apostle”
“overseer (bishop)”
“elder”
“deacon”
“priest”

8

Under shepherds are needed to maintain a healthy church.

“shepherd (POIMEN)”

(This term has to do with “function and activity”)

“apostle (APOSTOLOS)”
(This term has to do with “being sent out”)

“overseer (bishop) (EPISKOPOS)”
(This term has to do with “position and office”)

“deacon (servant) (DIAKONOS)”
(This term has to do with “being a servant”)

“elders (PERSBUTEROS)”
(This term has to do with “character and maturity”)

9

Spiritual “Headship” is about:

1. **Responsibility** more than rights.
2. **Self sacrificing service** more than being served.
3. **Inner disposition** more than outward rules & roles.

Elders (shepherds) in the church must possess these characteristics

Plus:



10

1 Timothy 3:1-7

disciplined conduct
reflecting mature character
with respectful commitment
and proven competence
with social & teaching skills

for equipping God’s people to unite in building the Body of Christ.

11

1 Timothy 3

“8 Deacons likewise must be men of dignity (**reverent**), 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 And let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. 11 **Women** must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. 12 Let deacons be husbands of only 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.”

As with elders, character and social skills are vital to building trust and authority.

Note that women are included.

12

Acts 6

“1 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose . . . 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.”

- **Responsive** to social complaints.
- **Diverse** pastoral roles.
- **Selected** by the congregation.
- **Blessed** by the elders.

13

How did the early church respond to heresy that could shipwreck the church?

14

Core of Theological Authority

Top down

Pope
(Roman Catholic)
50%

Creeds
(Eastern Orthodox)
12%

Scripture
(Protestant)
37%

Bottom up
“Priesthood of all believers”

15

Jewish Temple **“High Church” cathedral**

16

Was Peter the first Pope?

Matthew 16

“15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 **And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church;** and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and **whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**” 20 Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ.”

- **Since the Protestant Reformation** the Roman Catholic church has used this text as Biblical support for the unique authority of a Papal office, starting with Peter.
- This is based on a play on words - petros (Peter) / petra (rock) **but petra (feminine) would not normally refer to a man.**

17

Was Jesus the first, last, & only Pope?

Hebrews 3:1

“Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider **Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession.**”

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)

18

Authority was given not just to Peter but to the whole Apostolic community.

Matthew 18:18

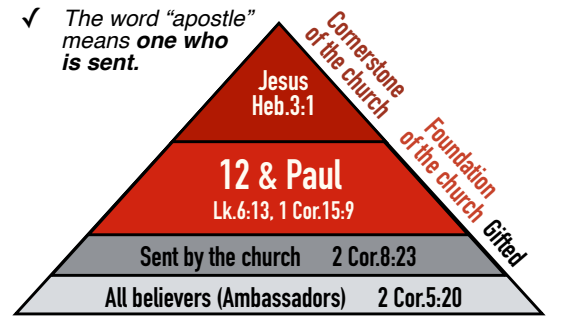
“Truly I say to you (disciples), **whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven**; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

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.””

1 Peter 1:1
 “Peter, an **apostle** of Jesus Christ,

✓ The word “apostle” means **one who is sent**.



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 counsel** 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,”

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** (12th cent.) 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.



Major on majors not minors

1. Church structure is not a major but some **principles** that shape it may be.
2. Authority rests in the **Scripture’s message** - “rightly understood”, not the magisterium of the church.
3. Priesthood **of all believers** is vital.
4. Post Reformation - Bishops / Elders, Deacons, **Priesthood of all believers.**





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