

# **Organization & Government of the Church**

## *Volume 2 - Unit 2*

### **I. What is a Local Church?**

An assembly of professing believers in Jesus Christ, organized as a spiritually gifted team to implement the great commission and to love and care for one another.

Note:

A. Profession

B. Organization

C. Implementation

1. To make disciples

2. To baptize

3. To teach

4. To take care

### **II. Who are the Leaders?**

A. Elders (presbuteroi) or Bishops (episkopoi)

1. Elder = Bishop (Acts 20:17, 28, Titus 1:5, 7)

2. Function

- a. Rule (I Timothy 5:17, Acts 20:28)
  - b. Teaching and guarding the truth (I Timothy 5:17, Acts 20:28, Titus 1:9)
  - c. Supervision of finances (Acts 11:30)
3. How Many? Several in each church (Acts 14:23, 20:17 - cf. Revelation 2:1, Philemon 1:1)
4. Qualifications (I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9)
- a. Blameless
  - b. Husband of one wife
  - c. Vigilant
  - d. Sober
  - e. Of good behavior
  - f. Hospitable
  - g. Apt to teach
  - h. Not given to wine
  - i. No striker
  - j. Not greedy for money
  - k. Patient
  - l. No brawler
  - m. Not covetous
  - n. Not a novice
  - o. Having a good testimony in the community

## B. Deacons (diakonoi)

1. Function: To assist elders (originally, the apostles) in administering aid to the needy, sick, etc. (Acts 6:1-6)

2. Qualifications (I Timothy 3:8-13)

a. Same essential moral qualifications

b. No mention of teaching, ruling

c. Addition of "not double-tongued", wives' qualifications

3. Deaconesses? (Romans 16:2, I Timothy 3:11)

## III. What is the Organization?

A. Episcopal? (Apostolic Succession)

B. Federal (Presbyterian)? (Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5, Hebrews 13:7, 17, I Corinthians 5, I Timothy 5:20)

C. Congregational? (I Corinthians 1:10, Philemon 1:27, Matthew 28:19-20, I Corinthians 11:2, 20, Acts 6:3, 5, 15:2, 30, II Corinthians 8:19, Matthew 18:17, I Corinthians 5, II Thessalonians 3:14f.)

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE - Acts 20:28 – “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers (bishops) to feed (shepherd, pastor) the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood.”