

Doctrine of the Church (Cont.)

Pastor Becker

Introduction

Matthew 16:18

Body

The Officers, Ministers and Leaders of the Church

Apostles

Luke 6:13; Acts 16:4; Ephesians 2:19-20; Ephesians 4:11-12; Matthew 10:2;
Luke 22:14; Revelation 21:14

Requirements for Apostleship

- Had to have been with the Lord - Acts 1:21-22
- Had to have been a witness of the Resurrection - Acts 1:22
- Had to have seen the Lord - I Corinthians 9:1
- Had to have been confirmed by the working of signs and wonders - II Corinthians 12:12
- Others were called “apostles” in scripture
 - Paul
 - Romans 11:13; I Corinthians 9:1
 - Barnabas - Acts 14:14
- Some were claiming to be apostles falsely
 - II Corinthians 11:13; Revelation 2:2

There is a distinction between the original twelve apostles and the term “apostle” as used of men today

- The church can have only one foundation - Ephesians 2:20
- When we claim “Apostolic Doctrine” or “Apostolic Authority”, we are referring to the teachings of the original twelve, whom we believe to have special authority from God.
 - To interpret Christ’s teachings into actionable commands
 - To set precedent and doctrine for the church
- There was no “Apostolic Succession” established in scripture, or by precedent.
 - Revelation 22:18-19

Prophets

Ephesians 2:20

- They were subject to the Apostles - I Corinthians 14:37
- Paul seemed to give the gift of prophesy the highest priority when seeking spiritual gifts - I Corinthians 14:1-3
- Paul defines what prophesy is
 - I Corinthians 14:3-4; Acts 15:32
- Peter identified a prophesy told by the prophet Joel during his sermon on Pentecost - Acts 2:17

Evangelists

In the Greek, the word “evangelist” is derived from the verb that is translated “to preach the gospel”

- Philip is the only one actually called an “evangelist” - Acts 21:8

- Timothy is not called an “evangelist” but is exhorted to do the work of an evangelist - II Timothy 4:5

Pastors

- Typically, they are referred to as “elder”, “overseer”, or “shepherd”
 - I Peter 5:2-4; Acts 20:28-29; John 21:15-17; Hebrews 13:20; I Peter 2:25; Mark 6:34

Teachers

- In some contexts however, it seems to be listed as a separate office - Acts 13:1
- Teaching is listed as a spiritual gift - Romans 12:6-7
- Part of the Great Commission - Matthew 28:19-20
- A bishop must be a teacher - I Timothy 3:2
- Leaders in the church are instructed to teach - II Timothy 2:24-25

Elders (Presbyters)

This is a term that was borrowed from the synagogue and from the congregation of Israel.

- The Hebrew word for “elder” was *zaquen* which meant “an older man.”
- The Greek word *presbuteros* has the same meaning, and is the source of our word *presbyter*.
- Elders typically filled the role of Pastor, as they had the oversight of the local church
 - Acts 20:17; Titus 1:5; I Peter 5:1-4
 - Elders were called for and sought out for prayer - James 5:14-15

Bishops (Overseers)

The KJV translates the Greek word *episcopos* as “Bishop”. Other translations use the word “Overseer”

- From this Greek word we get the English word “Episcopal”
- We see the Greek words *presbuteros* (elder) and *episcopos* (bishop or overseer) used interchangeably in scripture to describe the same office
 - Titus 1:5-9

Deacons

- The word “deacon” is from the Greek word *diakonos* which means “servant”
- Deacons are mentioned directly in only two passages
 - Philippians 1:1; I Timothy 3:8-13
- Scripture does not delineate the duties of the deacon specifically, but it’s apparent their duties had to do with the management of charities and the business affairs of the churches.

Ministers

Interestingly, the Greek word that we translate as “minister” is the same Greek word we use to get “deacon”, but there are a number of passages where the word *diakonos* cannot refer to the office of the deacon.

- I Corinthians 3:5; Ephesians 3:7
- The goal of the leader is to equip the saints for ministry. - Ephesians 4:12

Leaders (Rulers)

The words “rule” and “ruler” are used several times in the KJV to designate church leaders

- Romans 12:8; I Timothy 5:17; Hebrews 13:7; Hebrews 13:17; Hebrews 13:24

Other translations translate this word as “lead” or “leader”