



GOD'S CHURCH

HEADSHIP OF CHRIST

Ecclesiology 3: Authority in God's Church
(Christ is Head, His Word is Authoritative, Elders Oversee, Deacons Serve)



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Ecclesiology

The Study of the Church

Pillar of Truth

Temple of the Holy Spirit

Gospel Proclamation

Priesthood of All Believers

Spiritual Gifts

Body of Christ: Christ is the Head

Elders and Deacons

Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Discipline

Disciple-Making

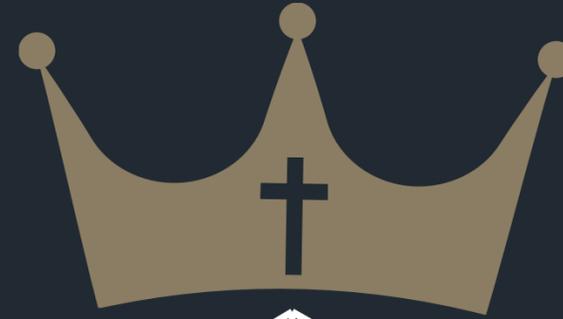


15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

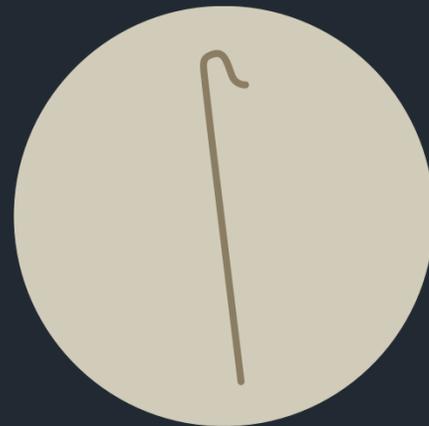
-Ephesians 1:15-23



Jesus is Lord



PASTORS



Pastors (elders) serve as under-shepherds to govern the church. (Heb. 13)

MAGISTRATES



Magistrates are to serve God by governing the civil arena. (Rom. 13)

HUSBANDS



Fathers (Husbands) are to serve God by governing the home. (Eph. 5)



Christ is Head Over The Church

ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET

Christ is King over everything, not just the Church (Matt. 28:18-20)

HE IS HEAD OVER THE CHURCH

Both in Scripture and in the historic use of the term “head” means authority. It is associated with kingship.

THE CHURCH IS HIS BODY

The metaphor “head” is taken further as Christ is not merely the authority over His Church, but the church is His body, functioning in obedience to the Head.



FALSE VIEWS OF CHURCH HEADSHIP

Mormon View

Believe in a modern-day apostle/prophet who serves as president of the church as its revelator, teacher, and spokesperson.

Roman Catholic View

Pope serves as the “vicar of Christ” based on their interpretation of John 21:16-17 and Matt.16:18-19)

Feminist View

Re-interprets “head” to mean “source” and rejects the Patriarchal teaching of Scripture.

“Evangellyfish” View

Places personal feeling or “private revelation” as the ultimate authority over the “Christian” self.



Is the Pope the Vicar of Christ?

CHRIST IS A VICAR (HE NEEDS NO VICAR)

Jesus is our High Priest (vicar). High Priests do not need a stand-in (Heb. 2:17, 4:14).

“UPON THIS ROCK”

Jesus tells Peter to feed his lambs (John 21:16-17) and tells him that He will build his church “upon this rock” (Matt. 16:18-19). The gospel proclamation is likely the “rock,” though it could be the foundation of the apostles. It cannot be Peter alone as Scripture teaches that the apostles and prophets lay the foundation with Christ as the chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:20, Rev. 21:14, 1 Cor. 3:10-11).

CHURCH HISTORY

Historically **πάππας** was used to refer to all bishops and only later to refer to senior leaders. The term was not used for any Roman See until Pope Leo I (AD 440–461) and is still not used of him singularly. This didn’t occur until the Great Schism (AD 1054). There is no evidence of apostolic authority being passed down (2 Timothy 2:2; 4:2-5; Titus 1:5; 2:1; 2:15; 1 Timothy 5:19-22).



Do I Trust My Feelings More than Scripture?

THE SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE

All the information needed for spiritual maturity is found in Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

DON'T TRUST YOUR HEART

Our heart is deceitful (Jer. 17:9) and cannot be trusted as a source of truth, but God is greater than our hearts (1 John 3:20)!

GOD'S LAW VS. AUTONOMY

As in Genesis 3, the choice is always between God's Word (His Commands) and human autonomy. The Enemy first questions God's Word and then gets you to trust yourself (ex., "Has God really said...?"). Just do what God has commanded. Trust His Word, and you will avoid calamity.



25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

-Ephesians 5:25-32



Marriage and Headship

Because marriage is designed to reflect Christ's relationship with the Church, it is important that we honor biblical roles in marriage.

HUSBANDS

- Love your wife sacrificially, even to the point of laying down your life for her (Eph. 5:25)
- Provide for her (5:29)
- Cleanse her with God's Word (5:26)
- Leave your parents and hold fast to your wife (5:31)
- Become one flesh with her in sexual union (Eph. 5:31, 1 Corinthians 7:2-5)
- Live with her in an understanding way (1 Peter 3:7a)
- Honor her since you are strong and she is weak (1 Peter 3:7b)

WIVES

- Submit to your husband in everything as the church should to Christ (Eph. 5:22).
- Respect him (5:33)
- Have a gentle, quiet demeanor (1 Peter 3:1-5)
- Help him (Gen. 2:18)
- Love him (Titus 2:4)
- Do him good and not harm (Proverbs 31:12)
- Be faithful (Exodus 20:14)
- Stay connected to him sexually (1 Corinthians 7:2-5)



Christ's Work as Head of the Church: Love

JUSTIFIES

He atoned for her sin. (Romans 3:25, 6:23)

SANCTIFIES

He washes her with the water of the Word. (Rom.6-8)

GLORIFIES

He presents her to Himself in splendor. (Rom. 8:28-30)

Note: The book of Romans follows these three key aspects of Christ's saving work for the Church.



11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

-Ephesians 4:11-16



Elders as Under- Shepherds

APOSTLES AND PROPHETS (SCRIPTURE)

This would be those who wrote Scripture. These offices have ceased as the Word of God is now given.

EVANGELISTS, SHEPHERD/TEACHERS (EQUIP)

Only elders/overseers are commanded to shepherd in Scripture. 1 Peter 5:1-4 refers to elders shepherding the flock of God under the authority of the Chief Shepherd (Christ). God gives strict limits on who can be elders (1 Timothy 2:11-15, 1 Timothy 3) and they are to guard and equip the Church using Scripture.

RESULTS OF GODLY SHEPHERDING: MATURITY IN CHRIST

BUILDING UP THE BODY	UNITY OF FAITH	KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST	STEADFASTNESS
The Church (Body of Christ) grows in maturity and often in size.	Doctrinal clarity leads to unity as essential doctrine is affirmed.	Increased knowledge of the Truth of Christ brings maturity and steadiness.	Human cunning/deceit causes disorder in life while the Word of God brings steadiness.



Elders

ACTS 20:28 (TO ELDERS)

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

HEBREWS 13:17 (TO CHURCH MEMBERS)

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

1 PETER 5:1-5

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”



Elders: Overseers

Keep Watch Over Souls
(Accountable to God)



Not under
compulsion, but
willingly.



Not for shameful
gain, but eagerly.*

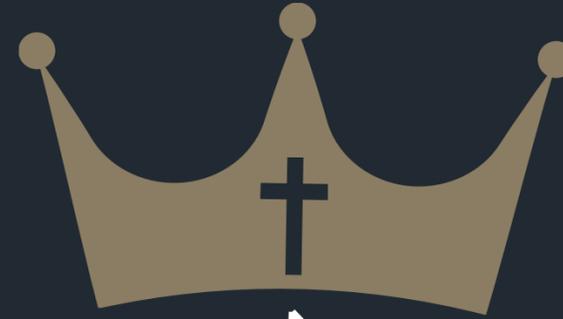


Not domineering, but
being an example.

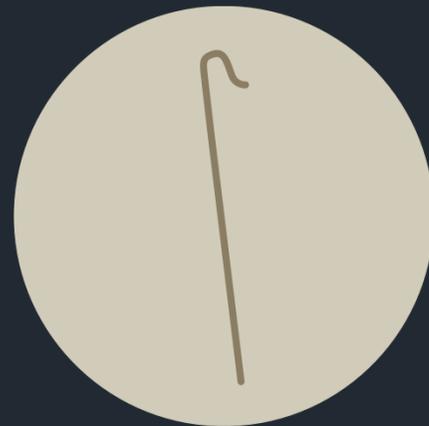
*1 Timothy 5 indicates that ministers should make their living from the church, but pastors should never exploit the church for shameful gain. They are to be provided for, but not lovers of money (see Titus 1:11).



Jesus is Lord

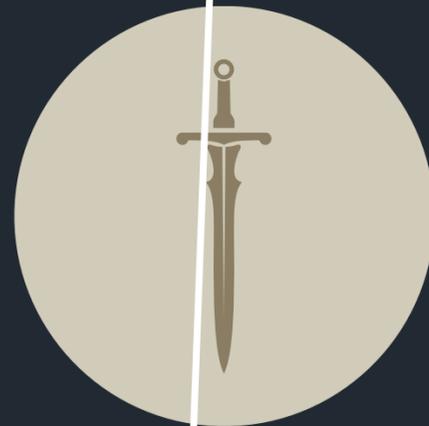


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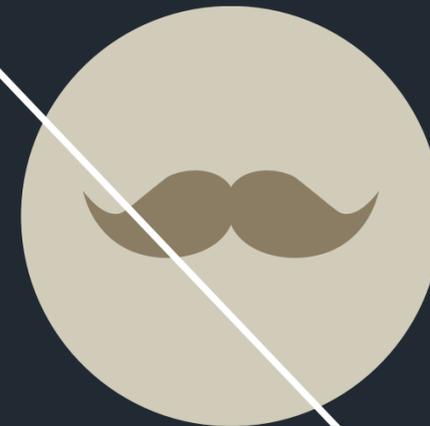
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Recommended Reading

