

# I Will Build My Church

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## The church is what Jesus is building

- Matthew 16:18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock ***I will build my church***, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

## When He called Peter to restore Him, WHAT DID HE CALL HIM TO DO? He called him to the task of taking care of His people - Essentially - BUILD MY CHURCH

- In John 21:15-17
  - Jesus said to Simon Peter, **do you love me?..."Feed my lambs."**
  - **Do you love me?..."Take care of my sheep."**
  - **Do you love me?..."Feed my sheep."**

## Church [Gk] called out...called out of the world and called to assemble

**It grieves me that there is so much negativity about the church...**On the internet you read..."you don't have to go to church to be a Christian" - while that is true, it doesn't truly express the heart of God - the church is the ONE THING HE IS BUILDING - and the church is the means through which He is reaching the world through evangelism and caring for and protecting His people through God-ordained leaders

- Ephesians 3:10 His intent was that now, ***through the church***, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,
- Ephesians 3:21 ***to him be glory in the church*** and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations,

## Jesus structured His church to include Saints, Overseers and Deacons

Php 1:1 NIV Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all God's ***holy people*** in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the ***overseers*** and ***deacons***:

## The Deacon - a servant

Act 6:1-7 NIV In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them **complained** against the Hebraic Jews because their **widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.** (2) So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "**It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.**" (3) Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. **We will turn this responsibility over to them** (4) and will give **our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.**" (5) This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. (6) They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. (7) So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

## God's wisdom in structuring the church is seen in the creation of deacons

- The growth of the church created problems - overlooked and complaining
- The church must function as a body - each has a call - others must step up to meet needs
- Men were given responsibility to resolve the problem - men full of the Spirit and wisdom
- RESULT? Who would have thought that by waiting on tables-Jesus would build his church?
  - **The word of God spread**
  - **The number of disciples increased rapidly**
  - **A great number of priests became obedient to the faith**

## Elders also - A church without elders is not "put in order" it is "unfinished"

Tit 1:4-9 NIV To Titus, my true son in our common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. (5) The reason I left you in Crete was ***that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.***

## What is the role of an elder?

Act 20:17 NIV From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church....

Act 20:28-32 NIV **Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock** of which the **Holy Spirit** has made you **overseers**. Be **shepherds** of the **church** of God, which he bought with his own blood. (29) I know that after I leave, **savage wolves will come in among you** and will not spare the flock. (30) Even from your own number **men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.** (31) So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

Leaders - made so by the Holy Spirit GOD's Church - purchased by His blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To be overseers [watch] of the flock</li><li>• To be shepherds of the <b>church of GOD</b></li><li>• Guard against wolves</li><li>• Guard against distortions of the truth</li></ul>
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## Another scripture outlining the role and DISPOSITION of an elder

1Pe 5:1-6 NIV To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: (2) Be **shepherds** of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but **eager to serve**; (3) **not lording it over those entrusted to you**, but being **examples** to the flock. (4) And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. (5) In the same way, you who are younger, **submit** yourselves to your elders. All of you, **clothe yourselves with humility** toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." (6) Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To be shepherds of God's flock<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Care for them</li><li>○ Watch over them</li></ul></li><li>• Eager to serve</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not lording over those entrusted to you</li><li>• To be an example to the flock</li><li>• To be submitted</li><li>• To walk in humility</li></ul>
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## Qualifications of elders and deacons are largely based on character

1Ti 3:1-13 NIV Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task.  
(2) Now the overseer is to be above reproach.....etc

## NT elders are spoken of as being in the plural - & part of a local church

Acts 14:23 Paul and Barnabas ***appointed elders for them in each church***

Acts 15:2 So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and **elders** about this question

Act 15:4 NIV ...they were welcomed by the **church** and the apostles and **elders**, ...

Act 20:17 NIV From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the **elders** of the **church**

1Ti 5:17 NIV The **elders** who direct the affairs of the **church** well are worthy of double honor especially those whose work is preaching and teaching

Jas 5:14 NIV Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the **elders** of the **church** to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord

## How God's People Respond to Elders

Heb 13:7 NIV **Remember your leaders**, who spoke the word of God to you. **Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.**

Heb 13:17 NIV Have **confidence** in your leaders [*KJV obey - be persuaded*] and **submit to their authority**, because they keep watch over you as those who must **give an account**. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

## Laying on of hands to release for ministry

- The Holy Ghost makes us overseers - Acts 20:28
- A man desires the office of a bishop he desires a good work - 1 Tim 3:1
- The current elders bear witness to the work of God and the character of the man and lay hands on him
  - Careful acknowledgement by current elders - 1 Tim 5:22

## **They laid hands on people for ordination**

- Acts 6:6 They presented these men to the apostles, ***who prayed and laid their hands on them.***
- 1 Timothy 4:14 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy ***when the body of elders laid their hands on you.***
- 1 Timothy 5:19-22 Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. 20 But those elders who are sinning you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning. 21 I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism. 22 ***Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands***, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.