



God's Organization & Leadership of The Church

And I tell you, you
are Peter, and on
this rock I will
build my church,
and the gates of
hell shall not
prevail against it.
Matt. 16:18

For the husband is
the head of the wife
even as Christ is the
head of the church,
his body, and is
himself its Savior.
Eph. 5:23

A silhouette of a crowd of people, rendered in dark gray, positioned at the bottom of the page. The figures are of various heights and are arranged in a line, facing forward.

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Now from Miletus he sent to
Ephesus and called the elders
of the church to come to him.
Acts 20:17

A silhouette of a crowd of people, rendered in black and dark grey, positioned at the bottom of the page. The figures are of various heights and are arranged in a dense group, suggesting a gathering or assembly.

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Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. Acts 20:17

- ❖ The New Testament provides a "pattern".
- ❖ The church at Jerusalem "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine" - Acts 2:42
- ❖ The apostles taught their doctrine in "every church" - 1 Cor. 4:17

- WHY BE CONCERNED ABOUT "CHURCH ORGANIZATION"?
- ORGANIZATION REVEALS PURPOSE!
- GOD'S "PATTERN" FOR ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH:
 - ELDERS TO OVERSEE THE LOCAL CONGREGATION. Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5
 - DEACON TO SERVE. 1 Tim. 3:13
 - MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION. Phil. 1:1



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**Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at
Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: 1:1**

THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE
PHILIPPIANS

Greeting
1 Paul and Timothy, servants¹ of Christ
Jesus,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at
Philippi, with the overseers² and deacons:³
2 Grace to you and peace from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving and Prayer
3 I thank my God in all my remembrance
in every prayer of mine for

To Live Is Christ

Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹for I know
of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my
erance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation
hope that I will not be at all ashamed
that with full courage now as ashamed
will be honored in my body, whether
or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ
to die is gain. ²²If I am to live is Christ
that means fruitful labor for

“ELDERS”

- ❑ The first elders are mentioned in Genesis 50:7.
- ❑ They served as representatives and were to convey what they learned to the people. Exo. 17:2-6
- ❑ They were to oversee regulations. Deut. 19:11-12
- ❑ They served as a court of appeals for cases of levirate marriage. Deut. 25:5-10
- ❑ Israel had a problem. Ezekial 34



“ELDERS”

- In the NT God would have elders in every church.
- The eldership is one of God’s gifts to the church. Eph. 4:8-12



Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.” (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, Eph. 4:8-12

v. 13 Grow to maturity!

v.14 Will not be children!

v.15-16 Grow upward!



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“ELDERS”

- ❑ **Are not men who are perfect but blameless.**
- ❑ **They display what faithfulness is to God.**
- ❑ **You have the blessing of their oversight.**

1 Pet. 5:2

- ❑ **Bishops or Overseers – implies they are to superintend, guard, and oversee.**

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.

Hebrews 13:17



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- ❑ Bishops or Overseers – implies they are to superintend, guard, and oversee.
- ❑ You have the blessing of their protection against spiritual assault. Acts 20:28
- ❑ Referred to in scripture as pastors or shepherds.
- ❑ Guard against spiritual decay.



He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach. Titus 1:9-11

- Men of faith who know the word!
- They have an intimate knowledge of the flock!
- You have the blessing of their vision. Prov. 29:18



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The Elders