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Section: Doctrine of Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q110. What are the three roles in the local church?**

The Bible distinctly instructs a local church to have qualified elders and committed members, of which some may be qualified deacons.

Owner - Coaches – Players (of which some are captains).

* **Jesus Is the Head of the Church**
* Jesus is called the head of the Church

**Ephesians 5:23** 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.

**Ephesians 4:15-16** Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16from 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.

**Colossians 1:18** And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

* **God is the one who buys the Church and owns the Church**

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** (NLT) ... You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

* **Jesus is the Chief Shepherd of the Church**

**1 Peter 5:4** And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

* **Jesus is the authority of the Church**

**Matthew 28:18-20**

* **Qualified Elders**

1. **Hebrews 13:7** Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.
2. **Hebrews 13:17** Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account ...
3. **1 Thessalonians 5:12-13** We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work ...
4. **Acts 20:28** [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 ..."

**Ephesians 4:11-12** 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

The word for shepherd here is “poimenas.” This is where we get the word “pastor.” Pastor means “to shepherd.”

**Acts 20:28** (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.

That word “overseer” is the Greek word “episkopoi,” which means “supervisor, manager, guardian.”

**1 Peter 5:1-4** 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: 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; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

The Greek word for elder is “presbuteroi.” Elders are Presbyters. This has Jewish roots (i.e. Sanhedrin, the Jewish fathers; it is a fatherly leader).

**Elder = Overseer/Bishop = Pastor/Shepherd**

* **The duties given in Scripture that the pastoral elders are to carry out**
* **Feeding the flock**

**John 21:17** ... “Feed my sheep."

**1 Timothy 3:2** Therefore an overseer[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+3%3A2+&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29717a)] must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach

**Titus 1:9** He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Titus+1%3A9+&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29885a)] doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

* **Protecting the flock**

**Acts 20:28-31** “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. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.”

* **Elders must watch themselves**
* **Elders must keep watch over the church**
* **Watchfulness for Satan’s advances and those opposed to God, looking to hurt His family**

**1 Peter 5:8** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

* **Watchfulness for false teachers, so they can protect the church from false teachings**

**Acts 20:30-31**

* **Leading the flock**
* **Elders lead by setting vision and direction**

**Proverbs 29:18** Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint …

* **Elders lead by governing and managing**
* **Elders lead by equipping and disciple-making**

**1 Peter 5:2-3** (NIV) Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care … by being examples to the flock.

**1 Corinthians 11:1** (NIV) Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

* **Caring for the flock**
* **Elders provide direct care**

**Acts 20:35 “**In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

**James 5:14** Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

* **Elders are to equip the saints to provide care**

**Ephesians 4:12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ

What do biblical elders do? Feed, protect, lead, and care.

* **The qualifications given in Scripture that elders are to meet and keep**
* **Motivation qualifications**
* **Willing to serve as elder**

An elder must be led by the Holy Spirit, and not out of obligation, to rightly prioritize one’s schedule and life to faithfully serve the full calling and duties of a pastoral elder (1 Tim. 3:1; 1 Pet. 5:2; Acts 20:28).

* **Character qualifications**
* **Above reproach**

An elder must be blameless and presenting no patterns of scriptural disobedience (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6-7).

* **Husband of one wife**

An elder must be a one-woman man who is sexually and emotionally pure and faithful (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6).

* + **Temperate**

An elder must be self-controlled, and mentally and emotionally stable (1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:8).

* + **Prudent**

An elder must be sober, sensible, wise, and balanced in judgment and discretion (1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:8).

* + **Respectable**

An elder must be well-ordered, disciplined, and an honorable man worth following or imitating (1 Timothy 3:2).

* **Hospitable**

An elder must be unselfish with his personal resources, welcoming, and generous with others (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8).

* **Without addictions (“not given to drunkenness”)**

An elder must be free from excesses and living a God-honoring lifestyle that doesn’t damage his testimony (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7).

* **Not contentious (“not violent”)**

An elder must be peaceable and not quarrelsome or divisive (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7).

* **Gentle**

An elder must be kind, gracious, loving, and even-tempered (1 Timothy 3:3).

* **Not covetous (“not a lover of money”)**

An elder must not be greedy for things or money and financially content and upright (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7).

* **Not a new convert**

An elder must be spiritually mature, with ongoing evidence of the fruit of the Spirit, and tested (1 Timothy 3:6).

* **Good reputation**

An elder must be respected by non-Christians in society (1 Timothy 3:7).

* **Not self-willed**

An elder must not be stubborn, insensitive, or prone to force opinions on others (Titus 1:7).

* **Just**

An elder must be fair and impartial. His judgment must be based on scriptural principles (Titus 1:8).

* **Abilities qualifications**
* **Worth following and imitating**

Elders must be able to provide a model in discipleship for others to follow and duplicate (1 Peter 5:3; 1 Cor 11:1).

* **Able to teach**

Elders must be able to communicate sound biblical doctrine effectively & refute false teaching (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9, 2 Timothy 4:2; 2:24).

* **Manages household well**

Elders must lead a well-ordered household, a healthy family life, and have obedient and respectful children (pertains to those whose children still live under parental authority) (1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:7).

* **Qualified Deacons**

**Deacons:** Qualified and called men who have dedicated, assigned roles of service under the authority of the elders.

**Acts 6:1-6** Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

* **Qualifications of a deacon**
* **Character qualifications**
* **Dignified (v. 8)**
* **Not double-tongued (v. 8)**
* **Without addictions (v. 8)**
* **Not greedy for dishonest gain (v. 8)**
* **Sound in faith and life (v. 9)**
* **Blameless (v. 10)**
* **Husband of one wife (v. 12)**
* **Ability qualifications**
* **Manage children and household well (v. 12)**
* **Qualifiers given to wives of deacons**
* **Godly wife (v. 11)**

**1689 Confession of Faith: “**A local church, gathered and fully organized according to the mind of Christ, consists of officers and members. The officers appointed by Christ are overseers or elders, and deacons. They are to be chosen and set apart by the church called and gathered in this way, for the distinctive purpose of administering ordinances and for carrying out any other power or duty Christ entrusts them with or calls them to. This pattern is to be continued to the end of the age.”

* **Committed Members**

**Members (local church members):** The professing believers who make up the local church family. Church members are committed to Scripture and one another

1. **Ephesians 4:15-16** Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 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.

**Q108. What is the local church?**

The local church is a group of professing believers who have covenanted to unify together to worship and glorify God by fulfilling the commands and mission God has given to the body of Christ.

1. **Dependability:**Covenant Membership solidifies who within the local church body can be counted on as a dependable member who will use their time, giftedness, and finances to help that local church body fulfill their God-given mission, vision, and beliefs.

**1 Corinthians 12:12-13** For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 12:19-20** If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

**Romans 12:3-6** For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them …

2. **Unity:**Covenant Membership provides every member with a clear understanding of the mission, vision, and core beliefs of that local church body by which they can unify around and commit to carry out.

**Ephesians 4:3** (NIV) Make every effort to **keep** the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

**Matthew 5:9** “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

3. **Commitment:**Covenant Membership allows every member to make a commitment to each other that they will fulfill the priorities and expectations according to an agreed-upon, written covenant.

4. **Accountability:**Covenant Membership gives every member a formal avenue by which they can invite that local church body and leadership to hold them accountable to what God has ordained for His children, as they walk daily in Christ.