

Offices in the Church

Pre lesson questions:

- 1) Why do we need leadership?
- 2) What are the four levels of authority for human being?

Answer:

- 1) Judg 17:5-6 ⁵Now this man Micah had a shrine, and he made an ephod and some household gods and installed one of his sons as his priest. ⁶In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

Rom 13:1-2 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ²Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

- 2) There are four levels of authority

1. God: Rom 9:20-21, Eph 1:19-22, Heb 1:1-4
2. Authority of Scripture: Ps 119:142, Ps 119:151, 2 Tim 3:16
3. Conscience: 1 Tim 4:1-3, Rom 2:12-16, 1 Cor 10:28-29
4. Delegated Authority

Offices in the Church

The leadership of the church consists of 4 offices.

1) Apostle 2) Prophet 3) Evangelist 4) Pastor/Teacher

Eph 4:11-13

¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

The purpose of this study is

To identify the offices that God has established .

To identify what is false or not scriptural about offices in churches.

To recognize offices and not discredit what God is doing.

To enable us to partake in the revival that God is ordaining to take place

1) Apostle

Apostolos (ap-os'-tol-os); **Apo** means **from**. **Stolos** means **to send**. So an **Apostle is one sent forth**

Apostles are called to establish new churches and build them on the foundation of Christ. They have authority over the churches that they start. And the church is built on them. Apostles and Prophets.

Paul refused to build on churches which he did not establish.

1 Cor 9:2 Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Rom 15:20-22 ²⁰It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. ²¹Rather, as it is written: "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand."²²This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you.

Eph 2:20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

1. Apostles of the Lamb (apostles whom Jesus appointed)

Jesus is the chief Apostle

Heb 3:1-2 Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. ²He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house.

The 12 Apostles were appointed by Jesus. They were witnesses of Jesus Ministry from beginning at the baptism of John until His resurrection. They testified of Christ They are called Apostles of the lamb. After Judas betrayal and death Matthias was chosen to replace him. He qualified because he had been with Jesus from the beginning.

Mark 3:14 He appointed twelve^[a] that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach

John 15:27 And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

Rev 21:14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Acts 1:26 Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

2. Ascension gift Apostles

Did the Office of an Apostle end with the 12?

Eph 4:8-11 This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people." ⁹(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions^[a]? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, He gave Apostles, prophets, evangelists and some as pastors and teachers. If was meant to be only the 12 Apostles then they were already given prior to Christ's ascension. If other Apostles were given after Jesus ascended then we should see some in scripture.

1 Cor 9:1 (Paul speaking) Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord?

Acts 14:14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting:

Rom 16:7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among^[a] the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.

Rev 2:2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.

The significance of this is that there were more than 12 Apostles. If there were only 12 then there would be no need to test those who claim to be Apostles. All you would have to do is take out the list of twelve names and if they were not on it that would be the end of it.

God's plan about church is Apostles who were appointed by God to start churches. Not by a man who was appointed by an organization.

2) Prophet

True prophets were mouthpieces of the true God. It is the second highest office in the church.

A prophet speaks before something comes to pass. They declare the word of the Lord in prophecy. A prophet operates in a higher degree than one with the gift of prophecy. A prophet's prophecy will be more wide ranging, more phenomenal. A prophet is not one who tells world events as a sensationalist. God is not calling them to predict the outcome of the super bowl. They are anointed Vessels of God for the building up of the church, His people.

Jesus was a prophet

Matt 13:57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home."

Deuteronomy 18:15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. (This is about Jesus)

Acts 11:27-28 During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.)

Acts 13:1-2 ¹ Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Here there were several prophets. barnabas was called a prophet here but in Acts 14:14 he was called an Apostle. it is possible for one to move into a higher office

Acts 15:32 Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the believers.

Paul and Silas travelled together and are listed together 6 times in Acts 15, 16, 17. You see and example of an Apostle and prophet laying the foundation together.

It is critical to recognize the office of the prophets.

2) Evangelist

"A messenger of good" (eu, "well," angelos, "a messenger"), denotes a "preacher of the gospel," euangelizo, "to proclaim glad tidings," and euangelion, "good news, gospel." Missionaries are "evangelists," as being essentially preachers of the gospel. (Vine's Expository Dictionary .)

The calling of an evangelist is to preach to the lost and bring them into the churches established by apostles and prophets. They also build up existing churches which have pastors. Often God will give miracles to confirm the word of God being preached

Who knows what Philip was called to?

Acts 6:5-6 ⁵This 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. ⁶They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

Acts 21:8 Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven.

This was the beginning of Philip's ministry. And what was the high calling that required apostles pray and lay hands on them. He was called to wait on tables for the church. The Bible talks about joy unspeakable and full of glory. Our joy is the end of our faith the salvation of our souls. Not where we start out in ministry.

Acts 8:5-8 ⁵Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. ⁶When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. ⁷For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸So there was great joy in that city.

Where you start out in ministry does not determine where you will end up. Many have gone out without being properly prepared. Many missionaries have the Good News (Gospel) in words only. We are called to share the Good news and pray for the needs of the people. If we don't ask we cant receive. The results are up to god and he will certainly give them . Our job is to step out

Evangelize

Evangelize is a verb, but how is it used and who does it apply to?

1. God

Gal 3:8 Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you."

2. Jesus

Luke 20:1 One day as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple courts and proclaiming the good news, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, together with the elders, came up to him.

3. Apostles on missionary journeys

Acts 14:6-7 But they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country,⁷ where they continued to preach the gospel.

4. Believers in general

Acts 8:4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

4) Pastor and Teacher

PASTOR

In scripture the Greek word is translated pastor once and shepherd 16 times

"a **shepherd**, one who **tends herds or flocks**" (not merely one who feeds them), is used metaphorically of Christian "pastors," "Pastors" **guide as well as feed the flock**, cf. Acts 20:28, which with v. 17, indicates that this was the service committed to elders (overseers or bishops); so also in 1 Peter 5:1,2, "tend the flock... **exercising the oversight**," RV; this involves **tender care and vigilant superintendence**. See SHEPHERD. (from Vine's Expository.)

Acts 20:28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God,^[a] which he bought with his own blood.

1 Peter 5: 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: ²Be 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;

Jesus is the Chief Shepherd

John 10:4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

Heb 13:20-21 Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, ²¹equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 2:25 For "you were like sheep going astray,"^[a] but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Ps 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

Pastors are shepherds under the chief shepherd Jesus

1. They lead the sheep to green pastures. they feed tend and care for the flock of God. they find water and grass for the sheep. Green pastures are places where the Spirit of God is moving upon the people.

2. They gather those who go astray and retrieve them. They deal with the hearts gently and firmly.

Matt 18:12-14 "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? ¹³And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. ¹⁴In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

3. They guard the flock against wolves.

Acts 20:29-31 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

4. They visit the sick and afflicted and they lead the sheep.

5. They are personally responsible for the sheep and must give account.

Heb 13:17 Have confidence in your leaders 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.

Teachers

Col 3:16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

A teacher gives truth and revelation from god's word, imparts a hunger to understand and apply the teaching of it. A teacher gets you motivated to get into the Word of God on your own.

1 Tim 4:13- Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.

Timothy was placed into his office through the laying on of hands and prophecy and through prophecy he was given a gift. It is likely that this gift was one of the nine gifts of the Spirit.

1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

Teaching provides the foundation so that you will always have an answer for those who seek the truth

Heb 5:11-14 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. ¹²In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

This scripture shows a great opportunity that was missed. These people could have been teachers. They could have been ministering to others and bringing them into truth. They could have had hands laid on them and been ordained into ministry.

They were still babes not acquainted with righteousness. The issue here is not mental capability. it has to do with willingness of heart. And they were slow to come around.

If they were willing Paul could have had leadership meetings with them. Instead he had to repeat the basics. They wasted the time and missed what God wanted to do with them. There are two camps. Which one do you want to be in?

Picture this:

- 1) A pastor is over 1 church, an apostle is over many.
- 2) There are signs of an apostle. It is not just a title for the president of a corporation called the church of...

2 Cor 12: 12 I persevered in demonstrating among you the marks of a true apostle, including signs, wonders and miracles.

Apostles and prophets work together. While both lay the foundation, prophets speak into the foundation and building of the church by the Word of the Lord. declaring what will come to pass.

They lay hands on and ordain others called to one of the four offices. In power and prophecy people are placed into the offices and gifts of the Spirit are imparted.

- 3) An apostle is the first pastor and teacher of any church he establishes. While the evangelist calls people in by preaching, signs, wonders miracles and healings, the Apostles and prophets establish the people firmly in the faith. And when the church is firmly rooted they appoint a pastor to shepherd the flock of God

Conclusion:

God is preparing people for waves of revival and a great revival which will sweep across the world prior to Jesus taking us to be with Him. God is looking for those waiting and watching for his appearing. He is looking for a people preparing themselves as a bride without spot or wrinkle. He is looking for those who seek him in Spirit, pending time, learning of Him. For those moved of heart, willing to do exploits in the name of Jesus.

For revival to come, the Holy Spirit must be poured out, the nine gifts of the Spirit must be given and sought. Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and teachers who are appointed by God must be raised up in teams and work together like the five fingers on a hand. The pattern was established in the book of Acts and it is what will be followed as the sweeping of revival comes again.