

CHRIST'S AUTHORITY MEDIATED TO THE LOCAL CHURCH

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1 Timothy 2:8-3:7 (NASB)

8 Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.

9 Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments,

10 but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.

11 A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.

12 But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.

13 For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve.

14 And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

15 But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.

1 It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.

2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.

4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity

5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),

6 and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.

7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Acts 20:17 (NASB)

17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church.

Acts 20:28 (NASB)

28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

In the NT churches, you will see that the authority of Christ was mediated to the local church through a _____ of godly _____, who have been raised up by the Holy Spirit (not nominated or elected), and recognized by the existing leadership of the church as possessing certain character qualifications, spiritual maturity and focused skills necessary to occupy the _____ and _____ office of the local church.

There are six issues that really matter that must be applied in recognizing those who would occupy the office of overseers.

I. _____ Matters

(1 Timothy 2:9-15)

II. _____ Matters

(1 Timothy 3:1)

III. _____ Matters

(1 Timothy 3:2-3)

IV. _____ Matters

(1 Timothy 3:2b; 3:4-5; Titus 1:9)

V. _____ Matters

(1 Timothy 3:6)

VI. _____ Matters

(1 Timothy 3:7)

Practical Implications

1. Those that occupy positions in the teaching office of the church are not to be determined by such things as a likeable personality, vocational accomplishments, social status or the ever-changing roles of men and women in a fallen culture. The authority of God's Word must rule in this important matter of leadership in the church.
2. The desire to serve in the office of overseer is placed in the heart of the man whom the Holy Spirit has raised up for this position. If you must coax, cajole or convince a person to take up this responsibility, he has not been raised up by the Spirit (Acts 20:28).
3. Fleshly ambitions that prompt some to pursue a position in the teaching office of the church does not come from the Holy Spirit. The desire for the office should be prompted by a strong ambition to be one of the chief servants of the local church (Matthew 20:25-28).
4. The order of creation and its implications regarding the function of authority and submission must be modeled in the church and in the home (1 Timothy 2:11-14; Ephesians 5:22-24).
5. The number of elders in a given congregation is determined by the Holy Spirit and not by a church constitution (Acts 20:28).
6. If an assembly ignores or disobeys God's instruction in this important area of the body life of the church, they do so to their own detriment and their effectiveness for the cause of the kingdom of God.