

FOUNDATION OF FAITH!
ECCLESIOLOGY
THE STUDY OF THE CHURCH
PART 8

This morning in our series Foundation of Faith we are in part 8 of our study of the Church or what is called Ecclesiology. And this morning, as we finish up looking at what the Church is about, we are going to focus on the government of the visible church or how is the church run, how is it organized. Once again there are several different views out there but I think you will see this morning that only one makes sense and it is biblical. If you don't agree with me on this, that is your opinion and I have no problem with that. But what I want to do is show you what I believe the Scriptures are clearly teaching us regarding church government.

The problem for many is letting go and trusting in the person that God has chosen to lead the church they are attending. That is difficult to do. Let me show you what I mean with this story. We are told,

There is a legend concerning a layman who promised to build a badly needed new auditorium for the church if permitted to keep the construction plans secret until the first day that it was used. Not even the pastor knew what he was going to do.

Well, the big day came and the work was completed. That first Sunday the place was packed with people. And those that arrived early were seated in the only seats, at the back of the church. Once they were seated the rows moved slowly to the front. This process continued until all were seated.

The preacher, upon seeing this was so carried away by it his sermon went on. And it was now 12 noon and his introduction was just over. Then, all of a sudden at 2 minutes after 12 noon, as the pastor continued to teach, a trap door opened up and the preacher dropped down into the basement!

- Source Unknown

Don't get any ideas! Now you know why someone needs to know what is going on in the church or should I say I need to know what is going on in the church! And yes, as we have seen the church is a living organism but it is also organized and that really is what church government is all about. It is organizing the church so it can function, it can move in a manner that will build it up and move it out! Yes, it is the Spirit of God that we need to be sensitive to but as you look at the Scriptures you see organization in everything that God does!

Think about our own bodies, many different working parts and yet they all work together for the betterment of the body and they are all controlled by the brain. If the body parts all did what they wanted nothing would get done and it would be spastic. The same is true with the church, obviously Christ needs to be the head and under Him is the pastor as we will see!

Before we start looking at what are the roles or positions in church government are, let me share with you what the role is, what the leaders of the church are to be doing. Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:12-16 of what Biblical leadership in the church is to do in a local body of believers. He shows how it is to bring stability, it should build up believers, it should nourish them in the faith, and-so-on.

Paul tells us that the leadership is **“for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head - Christ - from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”**

This is what is lacking many times in the church. We don't see the leaders bringing the Word of God to the congregation and thus, they are weak, they are tossed to and fro by various winds of doctrine that blow through the church. It is not an easy role but it is vital for the health of the church. If you have leaders that are lazy, that don't get involved, that feel their time is more important than their role in the church, that is not a leader. And we will see that as we go through these roles and again, this is important.

Many of you are new to this church and it has been a few years since we have looked at what church leadership is all about and how this church's leadership stands. So hopefully it answers any questions you may have and if it brings up questions, then see me afterward and we can talk about it.

CHURCH GOVERNMENT

There are basically three different types of church governments and I will briefly cover each one and share with you the one we use here at Calvary and why we use that form of church government. The three types of church government are Congregational, Presbyterian and Episcopalian. Now please do not confuse these names with the various denominations, that is not what this is about. These are different forms of church government and I will show you what they mean.

1. CONGREGATIONAL

The Congregational form of church government is an American invention and appeals to our American sense of democracy. Basically, the congregation as a whole makes all decisions in these churches by voting on matters of importance and appointing committees from its ranks to run the daily operation of the church. Most Congregational, Baptist, Pentecostal, Brethren, and non-denominational churches are organized in this fashion. The congregation votes on hiring a pastor, votes on how to spend the money, and on anything else of importance. Although democratic people like the idea, congregational forms of church government often wind up at best causing the pastor to be directed by the sheep he is supposed to lead, and at worst reducing the pastor to a hireling.

This was popular in the 1800's but it is still around today. One of the reasons this form of church government came into being was to protect the congregation against dictatorial pastors and thus, the congregation votes on everything, like I have said. Now some may like this but I can't find any place in the Scriptures where the sheep lead the shepherd. In fact, on average, you will find in any given church that 10% of the people are the core or the heart of the church. 30% of the people are getting fired up for the Lord. And 60% are new believers and unbelievers just checking out the church. The church is not a democracy, the 60% leading the 40%, but a theocracy – governed by GOD!

Now what about a pastor that gets out of control, that starts teaching hieratical things, is in sin or whatever? That is a great question and a very important one and I will show you what we do here at Calvary Chapel of Manitowoc to protect you from that ever happening when we look at the form of government we use here. But as you can see, the Congregational form of church government is not Scriptural and it really doesn't make any sense. It is also very dangerous because the people can then dictate what the pastor teaches on instead of the pastor being lead by the Lord! So I do not agree with the Congregational form of church government.

2. PRESBYTERIAN

The Presbyterian form of church government, which is typical in Presbyterian and Reformed churches, puts the decisions of the church in the hands of a select group of elders (the “presbytery”) who are appointed in various different ways, depending on the church. These elders are over the pastor, who in turn is over the congregation. The problem here too is that this system puts the God-appointed leader, the pastor, under some of those he is supposed to lead.

And thus, what you end up having is an elder run congregation where the pastor is just one of the elders, all are equal, all are a vote on the board and majority wins. This can be difficult if the elders try to tell the pastor what to do, what to preach on because he is hired and controlled by the elders since the pastor only has one vote as I have said.

I have seen churches split over this because the elders wanted to go in one direction. For instance, in this one church they wanted the pastor to teach on health, wealth and prosperity. The pastor saw the error in that and refused but he lost 2 to 1 and ended up leaving the church. In this type of church government the pastor can be nothing more than a hireling. And I once again don’t see this as a biblical form of church government although it can work if you have elders that are good and godly men! So this is not the form of church government we have here at Calvary Chapel of Manitowoc.

3. EPISCOPALIAN

The Episcopal form of church government, used by Episcopalian, Anglican, Catholic, Orthodox, and Methodist churches (to name a few) is controlled by a church hierarchy which may have differing names. Basically, there is a bishop, or someone of similar stature if called by a different name, who oversees the churches, appoints pastors to pulpits, sets policy, and guides the vision of the local congregations. Unfortunately, this style of government, which grew out of European monarchies, leaves little freedom for the local pastor or congregation to follow the leading of the Spirit.

Now here at Calvary Chapel of Manitowoc we have a variation you might say of this form of church government, the Episcopalian form. Now please understand that we are not a denomination and Pastor Chuck is not the head of all the Calvary Chapel's. We are not told what to do by Him, how to function. Pastor Chuck does not say, "This week all the Calvary Chapel's will be teaching out of the Gospel of Mark and here is your outline for your service." Nor does he say, "We are all going to support this mission's organization so send in your tithes and offerings and we will pull it all together."

We are independent and thus, we do those things that the Spirit of God is calling us to do. We are lead by Him and so, in this type of church government, which we have here at Calvary, the pastor is the shepherd of the church. In Acts 20:28 he is called "**bishop**" or EPISKOPOS and pastor or shepherd, POIMEN. He is also an elder or PRESBUTEROS but he shepherds the church and the elders are there to support him. And it is the shepherd who leads the church, the local body of believers.

Now once again some people freak out about this and wonder why God is only speaking to him. That is not that case, God is not only speaking to me, He is speaking to you. But in leading this church, if you don't believe that God is leading me, what are you doing here? You see, that is the bigger question. I am not perfect, there is only one who is and that is Jesus. Do I blow it at times? You bet I do but just as you would expect me to do with you, pick, you up, I hope you would do the same with me.

And please understand that I learn from you, you also teach me. I will give you this example and you have heard it but it does drive home the point. When we were asked to leave our last building we were renting because a business wanted to expand and use our space, I was discouraged, disappointed. We had spent several thousands of dollars fixing that building up and we did not have much left in the savings account.

That weekend we had a concert in the park and I was complaining and groaning, "What are we going to do?" You know, the pity party! And only a few people knew about this because I had just found out. And I was sharing with Diane, sweet Diane this story, "What are we going to do. It is bad. This is not good!" And Diane, not missing a beat, with that great smile on her face looked at me and said, "I wonder what God is going to do!"

Bless her heart, what could I say; she was right even though I didn't like it at first. But what else are we going to do but trust in the Lord and she taught me a valuable lesson that day. A lesson I knew very well and had taught it often but lost sight of that fact because the problem was overwhelming to me but it wasn't to God. Diane helped me get my focus back and the Lord used her in a powerful way. So I am learning and being taught just as you are and I respect what you have to say. I may not always agree with you, but I do respect what you say!

Now what about this issue of trying to keep them in check if they start to go astray? Again, that is a very important question because there are those pastors that can become dictators and if they are, then they truly are not shepherds. But what we do here at Calvary, if I started to teach heresy or was living in sin, the elders can talk to me about it but if I refuse to listen and blow them off, then they would go to other Calvary senior pastors in the Midwest. They might go to Pastor Dwight or Pastor Phil or both of them and share their concerns about what I was doing. They would then evaluate what was said and if it was true, then they would confront me on the issue.

After they hear what I have to say and if they feel that I was wrong, that I was teaching heresy or I was in sin and refuse to step down, they are the ones that can remove me from this position. In that is the safeguard for me that the elders can't rise up with a coup and try to remove me because they want that position or whatever the case may be. Also, it is a safeguard for you in case I get weird or something! Well, maybe not weird but you know what I mean!

We do see this pattern in the Scriptures, in the Old Testament, (Numbers 11:16-17) where Moses is accountable to God for the whole nation. He, in a sense was the pastor or the shepherd. Then there were the priests who dealt with the religious matters. They, in a sense, were the elders. Next there were the Judges, who dealt with civil matters. They, in a sense, were the deacons who dealt with the physical matters of the church. And then you had the children of Israel, the sheep you might say. So I feel that our church form of government is very biblical and I think it does work. Not everyone will agree with it, but that really is not the issue. What does God's Word say and what does God want us to do.

Church government here at Calvary Chapel of Manitowoc is really very simple, not a complex bureaucracy, not a bunch of committees and sub-committees. In fact, they are essentially non-existent. We have a board of elders made up of Steve, Conrad and myself and we meet every month to go over things. It is that simple. I had someone tell me once that when they wanted to do something they spoke with me and they did not have to go through some group of committees and it didn't take months or sometimes years to work it through. If it was biblical, go for it. I will help you as much as I can but if God has called you to do something, step out!

You see, basically here at Calvary Chapel of Manitowoc we believe that the pastor is responsible for the church, responsible to hear from God, and responsible to feed and love His people faithfully. Elders are appointed in the larger churches and even the smaller churches like ours to help the pastor care for the spiritual needs of the congregation, as are deacons to help the pastor care for the material needs of the church.

Now I want to take the rest of our time this morning and look at the role of a pastor, the role of the elder and the role of the deacon in the church. Again, this is what we are about and the roles are not there to exalt the person but to serve the body here at Calvary Chapel of Manitowoc.

1. **THE ROLE OF A PASTOR**

Turn with me to I Peter chapter 5 because here we see Peter speaking of pastors, of shepherds and their role in the church. Let's begin reading in I Peter chapter 5 starting in verse 1 where we are told, "**The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.**" I Peter 5:1-4.

Peter starts out by speaking of the elders and that may be confusing to you since we are speaking of pastors, but let's look at all that Peter is saying and I think you will see the point he is making and why he is speaking to pastors. First of all an elder or *PRESBUTEROS* in the Greek, spoke of someone who was mature in the Lord and had the wisdom needed for a leadership position. The position of an elder in the church focused on the spiritual matters or issues of the church. There are also deacons and they dealt with the physical matters or issues of the church. And we will look at these positions in a few minutes.

The Greek word for pastor is POIMEN, or for Bishop is EPISKOPOS and this is the shepherd or leader of the church. He is the one who guides the church. All Bishops or pastors are elders. So Peter here, in speaking to the shepherds, is speaking to the pastors who are also elders within the church. And think about this for a minute. How many shepherds do you need over a flock of sheep? You should only have one. I am not saying that you don't have those that assist in the work of the ministry, because you do, but they are elders and deacons. There is only one shepherd that oversees the local flock of believers or the local church.

Now I will go over the qualifications of a pastor when we deal with elders because those qualifications are the same. First of all we see that in Acts 20:17 where Paul is calling for the pastors of the local churches in Ephesus to come out to meet him. The thing we need to remember is that not all elders are pastors. An Elder deals with the spiritual matters of the church, a deacon with the physical matters of the church as I have said. These men are there to assist in the work, to support the pastor, but too often they try to usurp that position.

If you look at I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, which gives us the qualifications for bishops or overseers, EPISKOPOS in the Greek, you will notice that "bishop" is in the singular, not the plural, speaking of the pastor. And both in I Timothy and Titus they are to be able to teach sound doctrine. But in I Timothy 5:17 we read, "**Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.**" This can't be just speaking of pastors, for some of the elders didn't teach! And so, all pastors are elders, but not all elders are pastors or bishops!

Now what is the primary responsibility of the pastor? Interestingly enough a survey was done to find out what the ideal pastor was like. And in this survey they wanted people to write down the time a pastor should spend in Bible study, visiting members of his church, visiting the sick in the hospital, counseling, administrative work, and-so-on. When they averaged things all out they discovered that the average Christian expects their pastor to put in 135 ½ hours per week in ministry! That would leave 32 ½ hours per week to eat, sleep, spend time with their family. That is about 4 ½ hours a day!

Now I don't see that here in our congregation but that is the mentality in many churches. It's like going to a football game, where you have 22 people doing all the work on the field, and 60,000 people in the stands just sitting and watching. And many pastors have burned themselves out doing it all, because you can't! That is why it is the body of Christ. I am so blessed here, that in this small body of believers, many are involved in the work of the ministry, which frees me up to study the word.

There are basically three primary responsibilities that a pastor has for his flock, and let's look at those for a few minutes.

THREE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR A PASTOR

A. GUIDE

The pastor is to lead his flock down the right path. You see, there are so many paths out there competing for their attention, but there is the right one they are to travel on. And the way a pastor guides his flock is by example and by the Word of God. You see, you don't drive sheep from behind like cattle, but you lead them by going out in front and showing them the way. And the way the sheep are guided is by the Word of God or really according to the Word of God, and as they watch what their pastor does, how he handles himself. He is an example to them! My pastor, Phil Ballmaier is that kind of example to me, and I thank God for this man and the example he has given to me on what a shepherd is all about. A shepherd is to lead his flock down the right path, and correct them when they are heading in the wrong direction.

B. GRAZE

As a shepherd we are to bring the sheep into rich, fertile fields to feed upon. And that is the Word of God. We are to teach them for if we don't they will be spiritually sick and malnourished. There are so many winds of doctrine blowing through the church today, no wonder the sheep are so sick, weak, and easy prey for the wolves that are out there. Feed the flock that God has given you with the rich Word of God!

C. GUARD

As a pastor, as a shepherd, I am to guard the sheep from the wolves that come in disguised as Christians, as sheep, but are ready to destroy and devour the sheep with their false doctrine. A shepherd needed to be on guard at all times, watching over the sheep, and if a wolf was spotted, they would launch their rod to send those wolves scampering away. I am to warn you of the wolves that are out there, the false doctrines that they are teaching so that you are aware. Folks, I am sorry to say that in the church today we have people protecting the wolves instead of exposing them, and that is wrong.

If someone came into this church leading this flock astray, they would either stop what they are teaching, or they would leave the church, end of story. Now some may feel that is harsh, but how many of you would allow your children to play with wolves? None of you, and I won't allow wolves to come in and destroy the sheep God has entrusted to me.

Now some like to say, "What gives you the right to do that?" The Word of God! Paul said in Acts 20:28 to the Ephesian pastors, "**Therefore take heed to yourselves and to 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.**"

God has made me an overseer in this church, and to allow false doctrine in would show my lack of concern for the sheep that God has entrusted to me, the sheep He has purchased with His own blood! If someone did begin teaching false doctrine, Paul told Timothy what to do. He said, "**As I urged you when I went into Macedonia-- remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine.**" I Timothy 1:3. A shepherd is to protect his sheep, to guard them.

In all three of these areas we have just looked at, *GUIDING*, *GRAZING*, and *GUARDING*, they all contain one important element, the teaching of God's Word! You teach them so they know where to go. You teach them so they can feed on the nutrients of God's Word and be strengthened in the inner man. You teach them so they are aware of the danger that is out there. It is as Nehemiah 8:8 says, "**So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.**"

Ezra read the Word, explained the Word, and then he applied the Word to their lives! That is what I try to do here at Calvary Chapel and that is what a pastor is to do. It is pretty simple and yet we have made it so complicated. Shepherd the flock that God has entrusted to you because He has purchased it with His own blood! If that does not cause you to do what God has said, then don't be a pastor!

2. THE ROLE OF AN ELDER

As we look at the role of an elder, as I have said, it is the Greek word *PRESBUTEROS* and they dealt with the spiritual matters of the church. Now here is the thing, every bishop or senior pastor is an elder but not all elders are bishops. You see, in the local churches there is one senior pastor or shepherd. The church is not lead by elder rule, each having a vote in the decisions of the church, but by the shepherd. The elders, the deacons are there to support the work that is being done, to take some of the responsibilities so the pastor can focus on the study of God's Word and prayer.

I know for some, they have a hard time with this, but a shepherd watches over his flock, not shepherds. That is not to say that the elders are to ignore the flock, they too have a responsibility watching over the sheep, assisting the pastor.

Now here in I Peter chapter 5 when Peter is speaking of elders, who is he speaking of? We have covered this but I think verse 2 gives us the answer for Peter speaks of them shepherding over the flock that God has given to them, which tells me there were senior pastors or the head of the churches in Asia Minor who were also elders, just as I am.

Now not all elders are teaching elders, but they are responsible for the spiritual matters of the church. In other words, whatever the pastor needs, they should be on top of it. They are not there to make the pastors job more work, but to assist in the work. When I was attending Calvary Chapel of Elk Grove and was made an assistant pastor, I knew that God had called me to Wisconsin to be a senior pastor of a church. But at that time I was there to be Pastor Phil's right hand man. Whatever he needed to assist him in the work, to help keep him focus on the Word and prayer, I would do it.

I remember getting a call one Sunday morning and Phil was sick. And he said that he was supposed to do a wedding after church and there was no way that he could do it. You guessed it, "Joe, can you do the wedding for me?" Are you kidding me, Sunday morning I get a call to do a wedding! Well, I am sure you know what I said, "Of course I will, you get better!" And I did the wedding; in fact, I even think I taught that Sunday morning, I gave the message. That is what an elder is about, assisting in the work. If I need help in this area I expect them to jump right in on a minutes notice.

Now, what are the qualifications for an elder? Well, before I share them with you, let me say this. These things should be seen in all of our lives. We are not going to be perfect but if the pattern of our life goes against what God's Word tells us we should be doing, we need to get back on track!

This is the list for elders or those who are overseeing the spiritual aspects of the church, including Pastors. Paul lists 16 qualifications in I Timothy chapter 3 and another 6 in Titus chapter 1. Here they are,

- **Blameless:** Obviously none of us are perfect but Paul's point is that a leader doesn't have some blot on his life that someone can point to.
- **Husband of one wife:** This is better-translated "a one-woman man." A leader doesn't have to be married, but if he is he can't have wandering eyes, he must be faithful to his wife. Also, if your wife died or you were biblically divorced, you can still be a leader.
- **Temperate:** This speaks of a balance. That you are not given over to extremes. You must keep things in perspective and if you don't, your anxiety will affect the sheep that God has entrusted to you.
- **Sober minded:** This speaks of a person who knows how to handle situations clearly. Of this Wiersbe makes this point, "This does not mean he has no sense of humor, or that he is always solemn and sober. Rather it suggests that he knows the value of things and does not cheapen the ministry or the Gospel message by foolish behavior."
- **Good behavior:** Remember the Jerry Lewis movie, *The Disorderly Orderly*? Well, here the idea is of being in order, respectable, the opposite of that movie!
- **Hospitable:** They are willing to open their home and their lives up to people
- **Able to teach:** How important is this! In Nehemiah 8:8 we are told, "**So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.**" Leaders are to read the Word of God to the people, explain the Word of God to the people and then apply the Word of God to their lives. We truly need more men that can teach God's Word!

- ***Not given to wine:*** Does this imply elders can't drink? No, the idea is that he doesn't linger long to wine, he doesn't get drunk. Personally, I don't drink alcohol because I feel it is a bad example and it can cause someone to stumble. I don't think elders should drink alcohol!
- ***Not violent:*** A leader is to have a gentle spirit, able to let things go.
- ***Not greedy for Money:*** I like the way the KJV puts it, "**not greedy for filthy lucre.**" If you are in the ministry for money, you are in for the wrong reasons.
- ***Gentle:*** A leader is not a dictator or Conan the Christian but he has a gentle spirit towards people as Jesus did.
- ***Not quarrelsome:*** There are times you just need to let it go. Some just like to argue. I knew a guy who loved to quarrel and I think he thought he was being spiritual, but he wasn't. He was just looking to argue. Sometimes you just need to walk away and not add fuel to the fire!
- ***Not covetous:*** This is a person who is never satisfied, they always want more, bigger, better. A leader who is consistently dissatisfied is not to be a leader of God's people.
- ***Rules his own house well:*** If you can't manage your own family well, then you can't lead God's family either! What if a leader has a child that rebel's? That does not disqualify him from leadership unless the rebellion was the result of the parent's lack of discipline. And when a child rebels how is the situation handled? Is it ignored or is it dealt with in a godly way? You see, a child can rebel in spite of a good job the parents have done and they are not removed from the ministry because of it. Look at Adam and Eve, God was their Father and yet they still rebelled!
- ***Not a novice:*** You don't put a new believer into the ministry; you allow them to grow, mature in the faith. In our culture a movie star, athlete, musician that gets saved is immediately placed into the spotlight to speak of his faith and that is usually a disaster. Allow them to grow first!
- ***A good testimony:*** As unbelievers speak of you, do they do so in a good way, is your life an example of Christ? Don't live two different kinds of lives, one inside the church that is holy and one outside the church that is far from holy.
- ***Faithful children:*** The idea here is that if you can't care for your own home, how can you care for God's? And please understand that this is not saying that your children are perfect, none of us are, but if they do rebel, if they do have problems, how are you dealing with those things? Are you dealing with it in an appropriate manner? Here the focus is on the children and not the home in general.

- ***Not self-willed:*** If you are so consumed with self, you won't be able to care for God's people!
- ***Lovers of what is good:*** That is just obvious. If the evil things of this world are your focus, you can't lead God's people.
- ***Just:*** You must be right or fair towards people.
- ***Holy:*** You must be right towards God.
- ***Self-controlled:*** You must be right towards yourself. It is as Matthew Henry said, "How unfit are those to govern a church who cannot govern themselves!"

It has been said that Biblical leadership is "Bent knees, wet eyes and a broken heart." It is because you care for them, you love them! In Ephesus some of the leadership went astray, they taught heresy and Paul warned Timothy to know, before you replace them, make sure they meet the standards! These are the qualifications for a Pastor and an elder, and really, they should be something that we all desire in our lives. There is nothing in this that you can say does not apply to every Christian!

3. THE ROLE OF A DEACON

A deacon, DIAKONOS in the Greek, is someone who is involved with the physical aspects of the church. It may be cutting the grass, cleaning the church, setting up chairs and-so-on. And that means deacons are also accountable; you don't just make someone an usher because there is a need, but because they fulfill the requirements of being a deacon! What are they? Paul lists them for us in I Timothy chapter 3 and they are as follows.

- ***Reverent:*** If you don't show proper respect towards those who are leaders in the church, then you are dishonoring God and you can't be a deacon!

- ***Not doubled-tongued:*** Let your yes be “Yes!” and your no be “No!” Speak the truth, don’t try to deceive people or you can’t be a deacon!
- ***Not given to much wine:*** The same idea here as we saw with the elders, and again I don’t think a deacon should drink alcohol, it is a bad witness!
- ***Not greedy for money:*** Don’t use your position for your own gain – like an usher who is handing out his business cards as people are coming into the sanctuary!
- ***Holding the mystery of faith with a pure conscience:*** In other words, you are to live what you say you believe! It is as Paul said in II Corinthians 1:12, **“For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you.”** Now this mystery of faith is that which was once hidden, in the Old Testament, and is now revealed to us in the New Testament, it speaks of several things. ***The mystery of the incarnation*** – I Timothy 3:16. ***The mystery of the indwelling of Christ in believers*** – Colossians 1:26-27. ***The mystery of the saving Gospel*** – Colossians 4:3. ***The mystery of the rapture of the church*** – I Corinthians 15:51-58. ***And the mystery of lawlessness*** – II Thessalonians 2:7.
- ***Proved blameless:*** Again, like the elders they are not to have some big blot in their life.
- ***Wives not slanderers, temperate, faithful:*** Is this speaking of their wives? It could be but the word **“their”** is not in the original Greek and thus, this could be speaking of women deacons in the church! Some have a hard time with that thought, they don’t like it but women can be deacons in the church as we are told in Romans 16:1, **“I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea.”** Phoebe was a deaconess! Thus, deaconesses or deacons wives are not to be slanderers or accusers but to be levelheaded, cool and faithful! And think about it. If you are putting down others, if you are working against what God is doing because of your slanderous words, you should not be a deacon! That just makes sense to me.
- ***Husband of one wife:*** Again the idea is “a one woman man” or that his eyes are not wandering!
- ***Rules his own house well:*** Again, if you can’t take care of your own house, how can you care for God’s? You can’t!

I find it interesting that even those that care for the physical well being of the church are held to a high standard for they are representing God in all that they do! So those are the qualifications of deacons.

Now some want to know about woman pastor's are there any? No! Sorry, that is pretty straight forward but that is just the way it is. God has put men in the position of pastors, not because men are better or more spiritual, it is just the role that God has ordained for them in the church. End of story as far as I am concerned. You will never see a woman pastor at this church teaching from the pulpit! It is not that no woman can ever share but they can not have the position of a shepherd, they are not to lead.

To put it simply, all elders were males, for they needed to be **“the husband”** of one wife (1 Tim. 3:2). The position of an elder was a position of authority, and women were not **“to usurp authority over the man”** (1 Tim. 2:12). The reasons given, which clarify that this is not merely cultural, are based here on the order of creation and elsewhere (1 Cor. 11:3) on the nature of the Godhead. However, women are not inferior in nature, redemptive status, or spiritual gifting; they differ only in function. Please keep that in mind, we are one in Christ with different roles in the body of Christ!

Now in regards to true spiritual leadership, it is not about the leaders, it truly is about the people. We are servants, nothing more and nothing less. And as servants we all are working together for the common goal of exalting the Lord and bringing people into the kingdom of God! We all may have different roles in the church and some may be leaders but we are all servants! And make no mistake about it, the people; the sheep will never rise above what the leaders are manifesting in their lives, spiritually speaking.

It was Lord Nelson who defeated Napoleon's navy at the Battle of Trafalgar and in doing so he stopped Napoleon's planned invasion of England. Lord Nelson began that battle with the famous signal, "England expects that every man will do his duty." Now you may be wondering how he could demand such devotion and the reason is very simple. He gave it! In fact it was that victory that cost Lord Nelson his own life, he was willing to fight and die for his men, his country.

You see, it was just a few years earlier, after he had won an amazing victory at the Battle of the Nile that he wrote to Lord Howe "I had the happy fortune to command a band of brothers." That is what true leadership is about, working together! If you don't have that kind of love and compassion, if you are not loyal to the people and the work, then get out! If the things you do for the Lord and for the people don't bring joy to your life as you see them grow in the Lord, get out! That may seem harsh but what good are you really doing if you are not investing in them and rejoicing in them? You are not doing any good at all!

Now another question you may have is "How do we raise up elders in this church?" That is a very good one and the reality is, we don't raise up elders or leaders in the church, God does. What I do is I watch people; I watch these men and see what they are doing. Are they doing the work when they see a need or do they say things, "Hey, no one asked me so why should I do it?" That is a bad reason not to do it. You see a need in the body of Christ and you take care of it, that is what a leader is all about!

After that I pray about it, I speak with the other elders and have them pray about it and then, as the Lord leads, I speak to the person and have them pray about it. After all that, if the decision is to go forward I bring it before the congregation, before you. And I will explain what we are doing and I will give you a piece of paper that says you are in agreement in what we are doing in making this man an elder or you are not in agreement. Now here's the thing. If you are not in agreement you have to tell me why and you have to put your name on the paper so I can talk with you and get more information. Otherwise I will not accept the "no". Sorry, but I don't want someone putting "no" for no reason! If there are good reasons not to raise him up then we won't, otherwise we will go forward and before the body of here at Calvary we will lay hands on him and pray for him. We have acknowledged that he is a servant here to serve me and you!

Now that does not mean he is there to cut your lawn or take you shopping, hey, he is doing that for me! No, but you get the point. He is not here for those things, he is to serve you and help you in your walk with the Lord. He is there to make me aware of issues within the church that need to be dealt with and-so-on.

And make no mistake about it, you are going to have to sacrifice your time, your energy, your resources because that is what a servant does. You see, as leaders we are examples to others and the one that drove this home to me is my pastor, Pastor Phil. The first time I attended Calvary Chapel of Elk Grove I never met Phil, I did not know what he looked like, my wife talked with him over the phone and just got directions to the church. In fact when Julie said we were interested in attending his church he said, "How did you find out about us?" He was surprised but God knew exactly what He was doing.

So we pulled up to the church, which was located in the recreation hall of his townhouse complex and there is this guy with his arms filled with sound equipment and different things. I didn't realize that it was Pastor Phil who was carrying all that stuff into the church. And I learned a valuable lesson that day and really onward as I watched Pastor Phil, a pastor is a servant and he does what needs to be done and he did and I pray that I am an example to all of you. And for that matter, I pray that all the leadership here at Calvary Chapel of Manitowoc is an example to you of what a leader is to be.

So our Church Government here at Calvary is the Shepherd or Pastor is over the flock that God has entrusted to him, the one that He, Jesus has purchased with His own blood. Then there are the elders who are dealing with the spiritual aspects of the church and our elders are also teaching elders. They are here to assist me in the work of the ministry, to make my job easier so I can present to you the Word of God. And then there are the deacons who deal with the physical aspects of the church and they are very important also. And this role we really don't have differentiated here because those that are helping in the physical work of the church are really acting like deacons even though they might not have the title. If our church grows, the office of a deacon may be recognized but until that time I don't see the need.

Let me share this story with you about leadership and what it can do and then I will close our study on the Church. We are told,

. . . The mark of the greatest leader, in my opinion, is one who is willing to give his life for another.

The Civil War was a bloody and vicious war. At least 618,000 Americans died and some say the toll reached 700,000. Casualties exceeded all of America's other wars from the Revolution through Vietnam.

In the winter of 1862 General Robert E. Lee's forces had claimed several key battlefields in the Eastern Campaign. One of those key battles was as one-sided a victory as a battle could be. It was the Battle of Fredericksburg. On December 13, 1862, Union forces began what was termed a desperate and eventual doomed assault on a heavily fortified position known as the "stone wall at the sunken road."

After crossing a river the Union confidentially took the town of Fredericksburg with little resistance. The confederate army had voluntarily given up the town so that they might fortify themselves along a stone wall at the base of a sloping hill. As the union army begin to approach the wall they were attacked and by the morning of December 14th over 8,000 Union soldiers had been shot in front of the stone wall. Many of those remaining on the battlefield were still alive, but suffering from their wounds, the cold and thirst.

During that night both sides were forced to listen to the cries and moans of those soldiers for hours. A Confederate soldier stationed near the wall later stated that it was “weird, unearthly, terrible to hear and bear the cries of dying soldiers filling the air - lying crippled on a hillside so many miles from home - breaking the hearts of soldiers on both sides of the battlefield.”

Richard Rowland Kirkland, an infantry sergeant for the Confederacy could not rest or sleep due to the suffering of the Union soldiers and that morning asked his commanding officer if he could scale the wall and provide water for the suffering Union troops. The commanding officer was reluctant at first because of the danger to Richard, but later allowed him to.

As Richard climbed the wall several shots were instantly fired thinking that Kirkland's motives were to wound more, but after realizing what was happening shooting ceased. Richard Rowland Kirkland made his way to each soldier comforting them the best he could by laying his jacket over one and providing water to the thirsty lips of all. For the next hour and a half he would scale the wall a number of times with his canteen to get more water for his enemy. It was a moment that temporarily stopped the Civil War.

This story deeply touched me. To me this exemplifies the highest calling of leadership. And it embodies the purpose of leadership. That purpose is to care and to serve. Is there one man on that battlefield that wouldn't have been willing to follow such a servant if asked to? He was the enemy of course, but how much more powerful the example. . . .

- <http://www.teamworkandleadership.com/2011/02/a-leadership-story-that-will-move-and-inspire-you.html>

A true leader in the church should do no less. We need to be willing to lay down our lives for the people that God has entrusted to us. One of my prayers over the next few months or so is to work on a leadership class, something to encourage you men if you are feeling the call to serve. My hearts desire is to raise up leaders that can continue on the work of the ministry and I can't think of a better place to start than right here. So please keep that in prayer for me.

Now as I bring this study to a close and this section on the church to a close, let me remind you of what Paul said in I Timothy 3:14-15, **“These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”**

Make no mistake about it. The Church, more than any other institution on this earth, is the place where people should go because it upholds the truths of God found in the Word of God! We should not only lift up the truth of God but hold it up high for all to see. We should not be ashamed of the Word of God, not at all! It is the Word of God that smashes, destroys the ideological fortresses of Satan, his lies! If the Church truly wants to be great and have those victories, then we must continue to be the pillar and foundation of the truth!

I can't tell you how much I love all of you and what a blessing it is to be your pastor and to lead you in the truths of God found in the Word of God. It is an honor and as long as I am able, as long as the Lord gives me the breath to speak, I will give you the truths of God found in the Word of God and lead you to the only One that really matters, Jesus!