

# **The Church Of The Bible**

## **Lesson 6**

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### **Relationships For Church Functioning**

# Introduction

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- **Special relationships**
  - *It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be **pastors and teachers**, (Eph. 4:11)*
- **Other special relationships**
  - *To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the **overseers and deacons**: (Phil. 1:1)*
  - ***Deacons**, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. (1Tim. 3:8 )*

# Pastors

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- **Literally – “shepherds”**
- **Called bishops, overseers, elders and leaders**
- **A relationship – elder- church**
  - **Obligations and privileges on both sides**
  - **The church must honor the leadership role of elders**
  - **The elders must be “able to teach” and “be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.” (Titus 1:9)**

# The Elder-Church Relationship

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- **Not superior-subordinate: not boss- underling**
  - *"But you are not to be called `Rabbi,' for you have only one Master and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth `father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to be called `teacher,' for you have one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. (MT 23:8-12)*

**No distinguishing titles**

# The Elder-Church Relationship

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- **Not to lord it over the Christian's faith**
  - *Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave. (Matt. 20:25-27)*

# The Elder-Church Relationship

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- **Who is the greatest among you?**
  - *Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. (LK 22:24-26)*

# Leadership

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- **Leadership in world affairs contrasted to leadership in Christianity**
  - “Exercise authority over them” vs. be their servant
  - Seeking places of honor vs. seeking places of service
  - Seeking opportunities to help vs. praise
- **A position of loving service**
- **Not a position of ruling power**

# “Rule Over You”

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- *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. (Heb. 13:17 - KJV )*
- **Obey – “peithesthe” – be persuaded**
- **Rule over you – are over you**
  - “proestotes” - take the lead
- **Be persuaded by your leaders**
  - *Obey your leaders (those who care for you) and submit to their authority. NIV*

# Rules His House

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- *One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) ( *1Tim. 3:4-5*)*
  - Ruleth/Rule - “oikodes-potein” – power of control

# Elders' Work

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- *To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.*  
*(1Pet. 5:1-3)*
- “Overseers” Those who “look out over” – care for you

## Word or Phrase in Titus 1

- Blameless
- The husband of but one wife
- A man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient
- Not overbearing
- Not quick-tempered
- Not given to drunkenness
- Not violent
- Not pursuing dishonest gain
- Hospitable
- One who loves what is good
- Self-controlled
- Upright
- Holy
- Disciplined
- Hold firmly to the trustworthy message
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## Word or Phrase in 1 Tim 3

- Above reproach
- The husband of but one wife
- Manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect
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- Not given to drunkenness
- Not violent but gentle
- Not a lover of money
- Hospitable
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- Self-controlled
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- Able to teach
- Temperate
- Respectable
- Not quarrelsome
- Not be a recent convert
- Good reputation with outsiders

# Skills Composite

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***Spiritual leader  
not  
A Manager***

- Spiritually mature family man
- God fearing
- Christian character
- Respected inside & outside the brotherhood

# Overseer - Shepherd

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**Service - a work**

*not*

**A Position**

*The **greatest** among you will be your **servant**. - Matt.23:11*

# **A Relationship**

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- **All parties in a relationship have privileges and obligations**
- **Too often we impute privileges to those we consider of higher rank, and obligations to those consider of lower rank**
- **In church relationships, all parties are deemed of equal rank**

# Teachers

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- In the text “*some to be **pastors and teachers,***”
  - “Some” modifies both pastors and teachers
- Teachers at Antioch (**Acts 13:1**)
  - *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.*
- Paul was appointed a teacher (**1 Tim. 2:7**)
- Older women were to be teachers (**Titus 2:3**)
- Appointed teachers (**1 Cor. 12:28**)  
**Skilled in the word!**

# Teachers Appointed

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- Paul's multi appointments
- *And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle--I am telling the truth, I am not lying--and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles. **1 Timothy 2:7 (NIV)***
- Older women were to be teachers
- *Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. **Titus 2:3 (NIV)***
- "Appointed" Teachers
- *And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. **1 Corinthians 12:28 (NIV)***

**A work, not an office**

# Deacons

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- **Anglicized form of the Greek word “Diakonos”**
  - One who serves
- **Translated three ways in the N.T.**
  - Deacon
  - Servant
  - Minister
- **Carries no official office connotation**

# Bible Uses Of Diakonos

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- **Translated ministers**
  - To speak of Paul's work (**Col. 1:23-25, Eph. 3:7**)
  - To speak of Apollos' work (**1 Cor. 3:5**)
  - To speak of Epaphras' work (**Col. 1:7**)
  - To speak of Tychicus' work (**Col. 4:7**)
  - The work of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers  
(The work of ministering)

# The Jerusalem “Deacons”

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- *So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.*
- *Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word. (Acts 6:2-4)*

# Conclusion

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- **Church organization is a system of serving relationships**
  - Not a hierarchal government with offices of power and authority over the Christians
- **Premise: God created man a “free moral agent”**
  - The Godhead honors that and will not overrule an individual’s choices
  - Neither has he arranged for leaders to do that

**“We be brethren”**

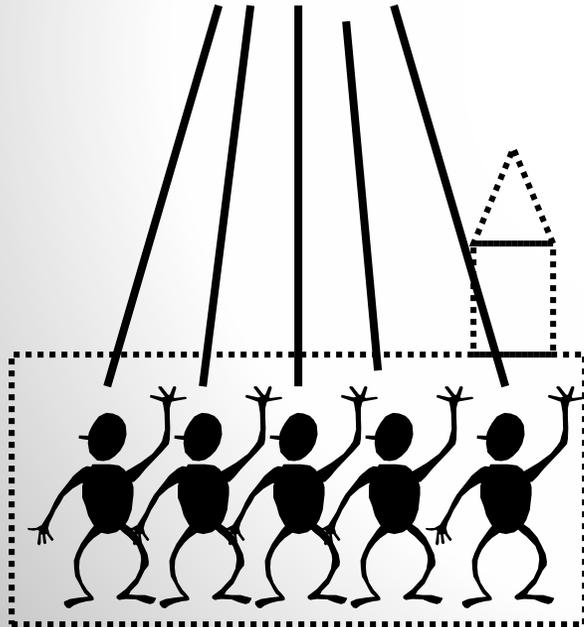
# Individual Accountability

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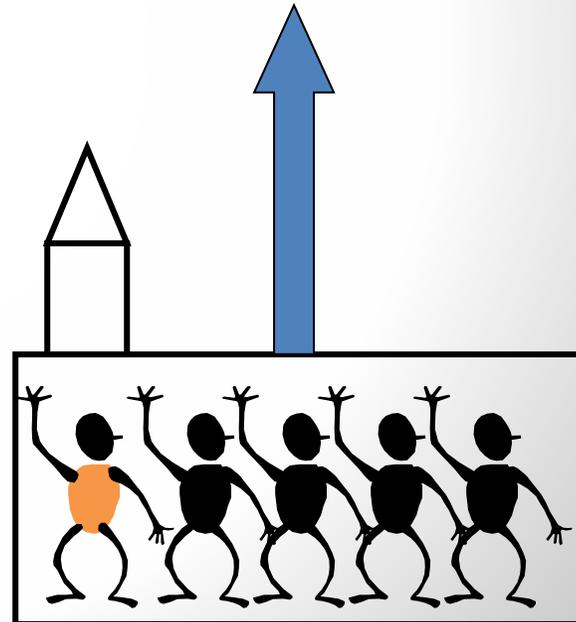
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**Christ**

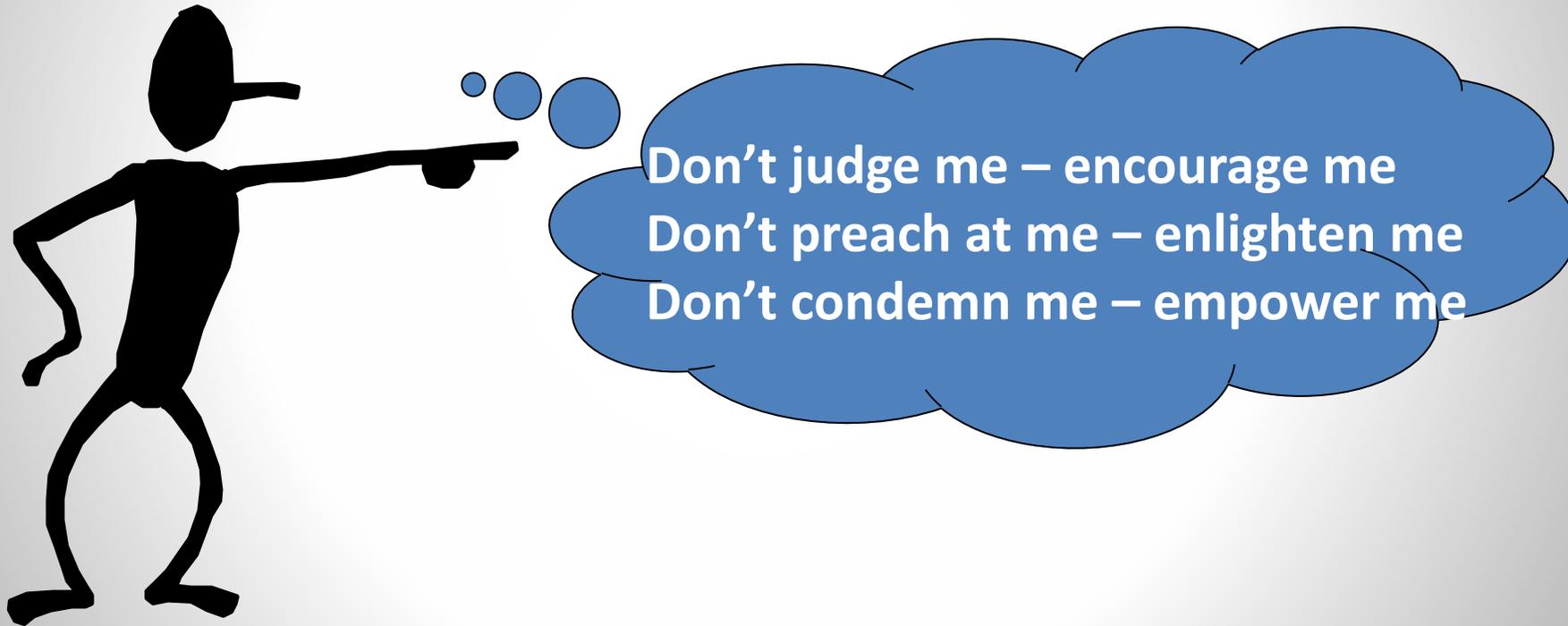


Not This

**Christ**



*Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God (**Ephesians 5:1-2** )*



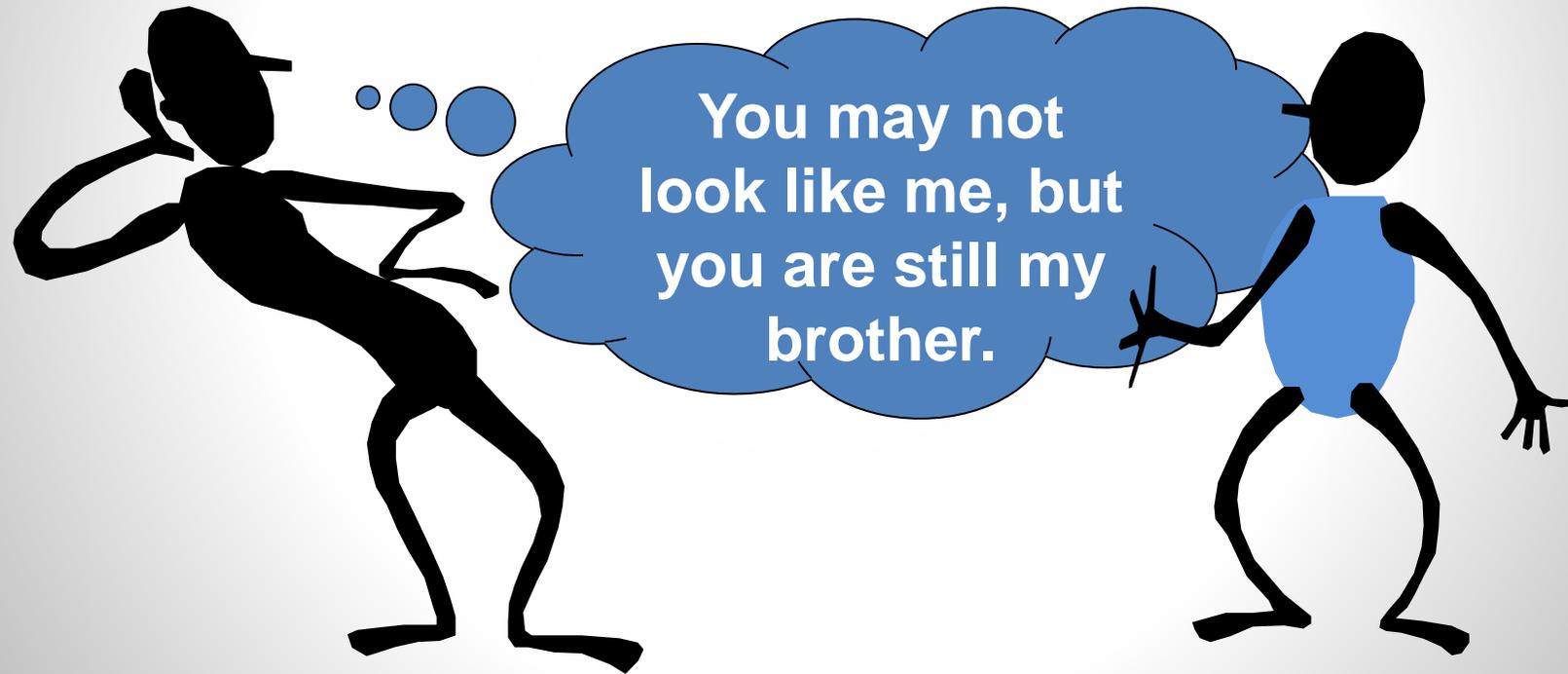
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***"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep." (John 10:11-12)***



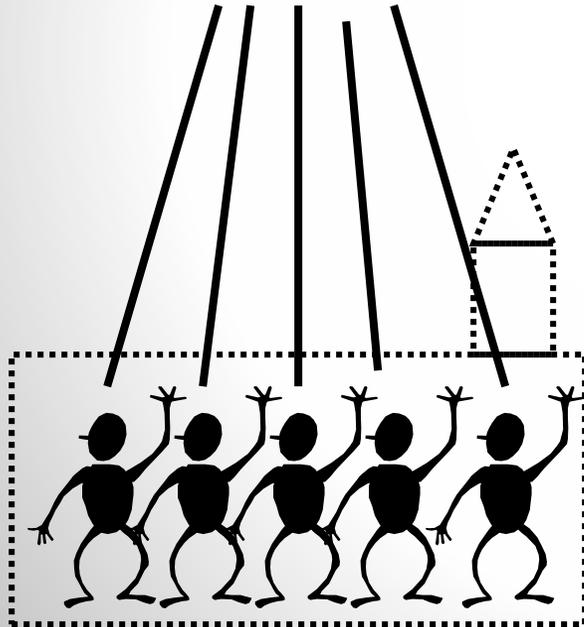
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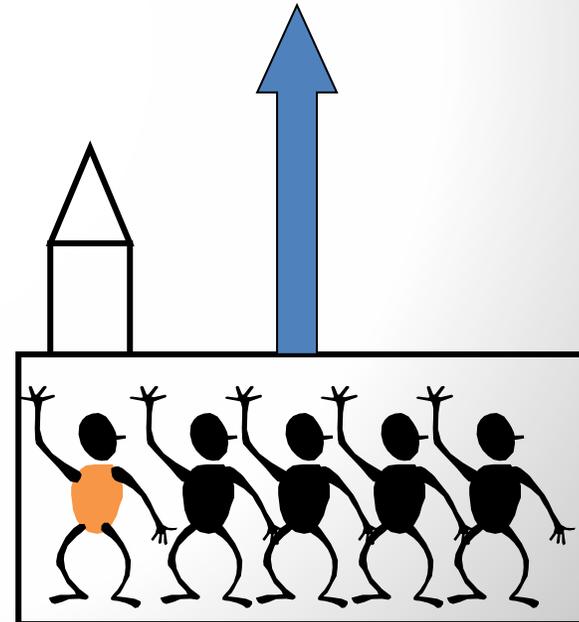
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**Christ**



Not This

**Christ**





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