

# What is the church?

- A. A building—*Did you see the new church being built downtown?*
- B. An event—*Hey, I missed you at church last week!*
- C. An organization—*How much did you donate to the church last year?*
- D. A community—*The church really helped me out during a difficult time.*





# Series at a glance

- God's Plan for the World
- What is the *church*?
- **Leadership of the church**
- God's Word as the DNA of the church
- Relationships as the lifeblood of the church
- Distinctives of LSCC





# Christ & the church

- Head (of the body)
- King (conquerer, ruler, sovereign, in-charge)
- Prophet (proclaimed God & His purposes; called for repentance; prophecy)
- High Priest (made the perfect atonement for sin)
- Chief shepherd (cares for the flock: directs, feeds, & protects)





And he put all things under his feet and gave him as  
head over all things to the church...

Ephesians 1:22





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 5:23





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.

Colossians 1:18





He has delivered us from the domain of darkness  
and transferred us to **the kingdom of his beloved  
Son...**

Colossians 1:13





Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the **name that is above every name**, so that at the name of Jesus **every knee should bow**, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and **every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.





They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.





The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet  
like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to  
him you shall listen—

Deuteronomy 18:15





And the crowds were saying, “**This is the prophet Jesus**, from Nazareth in Galilee.

Matthew 21:11





For there is one God, and there is one mediator  
between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...

1 Timothy 2:5





You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, **to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

1 Peter 2:5





And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, **a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

Ephesians 5:2





I am the good **shepherd**. The good **shepherd** lays down his life for the sheep...I am the good **shepherd**. I know my own and my own know me, Just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 10:11, 14-15





And when the **chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

1 Peter 5:4





# Apostolic foundation

- Foundation of the church, Christ as the cornerstone
- Commissioned by Christ
- Close proximity to His earthly ministry; eye-witness of His resurrection
- Messengers of Christ, carrying His authority, preaching the Gospel
- Believers stand on this unshakable foundation





So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, **having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone**, in whom the whole building, being joined together, is growing into a holy sanctuary in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.





Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man,  
but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who  
raised him from the dead...For I would have you  
know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached  
by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it  
from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it  
through a revelation of Jesus Christ.





That which was from the beginning, which we have heard,  
which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon  
and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of  
life – the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and  
testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was  
with the Father and was made manifest to us – that which  
we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that  
you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our  
fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.





# Local church leadership

- Church Elders (and Deacons)
  - Definition & appointment
  - Qualifications
  - Responsibilities
  - Level of authority
  - Congregational role





# THREE TERMS FOR ONE OFFICE

**ELDER/  
PRESBYTER**

indicates  
maturity

1 Tim.  
5:17; Jas.  
5:14

*presbuteros*

Eph.  
4:11

*poimēn;  
poimainō*

**PASTOR/  
SHEPHERD**

task of  
caring for  
and feeding  
the flock

Acts 20:  
17–28;  
1 Pet. 5:  
1–2

Titus  
1:5–7

1 Pet.  
2:25

**OVERSEER/  
BISHOP**

*episkopos; episkopeō*

1 Tim. 3:1–7;  
Php. 1:1

task of  
oversight



And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Acts 14:23





For this reason I left you in Crete, **that you would set  
in order what remains and appoint elders** in every  
city as I directed you...

Titus 1:5





Now in those days, while the disciples were multiplying in number, there was grumbling from the Hellenists against the Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, “It is not pleasing to God for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. **“Therefore, brothers, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this need. “But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.”** And this word pleased the whole congregation, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. And these they stood before the apostles, and after praying, they laid their hands on them. And the word of God kept on spreading, and the number of the disciples continued to multiply greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

Acts 6:1-7





# Eldership — Qualifications

- 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- Titus 1:5-9
- Character is the primary concern





It is a trustworthy saying: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a good work. An overseer, then, **must be above reproach**, the husband of one wife, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but considerate, peaceable, free from the love of money; leading his own household well, having his children in submission with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to lead his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 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.





For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, namely, if any man is **beyond reproach**, the husband of one wife, having faithful children, who are not accused of dissipation, or rebellious. For the overseer must be beyond reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of dishonest gain, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, righteous, holy, self-controlled...

Titus 1:5-8





# Eldership — Qualifications

- 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- Titus 1:5-9
- Character is the primary concern
- A few common questions:
  - Does an Elder have to be perfect?
  - Does an Elder have to be older?
  - Is the role of Elder open to both men & women?





# Eldership — Responsibilities

- Acts 20:28-31
- 1 Peter 5:1-4





**“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. “I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. “Therefore be watchful, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.





Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, overseeing not under compulsion, but willingly, according to God; and not for dishonest gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.





...holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to reprove those who contradict. For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of dishonest gain.





# Eldership — Responsibilities

- Acts 20:28-31
- 1 Peter 5:1-4
- “Be imitators of Christ”
  - Christ established the responsibilities & expectations





# Eldership — Level of Authority

- Elders are to “rule” (preside, maintain, oversee)
  - God’s Word through teaching/doctrine & prayer
  - Determine the roles within the congregation
  - Oversee the work of the local congregation
  - All areas that would be watching over the souls of our people





# Eldership — Role of the Congregation

- Honor & esteem the elders
- Imitate their elders
- Obey/submit to their elders
- Watch over the teaching, purity, and unity of the church





Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double **honor**, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

1 Timothy 5:17





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. Be at peace among yourselves.





Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you  
the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way  
of life, and **imitate their faith**.

Hebrews 13:7





You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings— what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. . . But as for you, **continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it...**





Be **imitators** of me, as I am of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1





**Obey your leaders and submit to their authority.**  
They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. **Obey them** so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.





I am astonished that **you** are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel.

...**you foolish Galatians**





Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, **for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.**

Acts 17:11





# Leadership of the church

- Christ & the church
- Apostolic foundation
- Local church leadership
  - Definition & appointment
  - Qualifications
  - Responsibilities
  - Authority
  - Role of the congregation

