

Presbyters, Pastors, and Bishops, Oh My!

Removing the Uneasiness Around These Words

(Titus 1:5-11)

- Introduction:
1. Sometimes these words are indeed scary to us.
 2. These words almost sound “denominational” to us.
 3. Grant it, these words are most employed by those in religious sects, but their roots are in the Scriptures.
 4. Therefore, there should be nothing to fear.

I. The Biblical Use of these Words

- A. There are three terms in the Bible that describe the nature of church leadership.
 1. Presbuterous – Presbyter (Latin); Elder (English) – Denotes maturity and wisdom.
 2. Poimen – Pastor (Latin); Shepherd (English) – Denotes feeding, guiding, and protecting.
 3. Episcopos – Bishop (Old English); Overseer (English) – Denotes administration and stewardship.
- B. These are not three different works but are descriptions of one work.
 1. Ills. What is a mother? (a Counselor, a taxi-driver, a cook, a keeper of the home, a tutor, etc.)
 2. (Acts 20:17-28).
 - a. Elders (Acts 20:17).
 - b. Bishops/Overseers (Acts 20:28).
 - c. Shepherd/Pastor (Acts 20:28).
 3. (1 Peter 5:1-4).
 - a. Elders (1 Peter 5:1).
 - b. Shepherd/Pastor (1 Peter 5:2).
 - c. Overseers/Bishops (1 Peter 5:2).

II. The Qualifications of Presbyters/Pastors/Bishops

- A. They are recorded in (1 Timothy 3:1-7 & Titus 1:5-9).
- B. These qualifications can be divided into three categories.
 1. Character Qualifications.
 2. Family Qualifications.
 3. Spiritual Qualifications.
- C. These qualifications are not in order to receive an “honor,” but to do a work.

- Conclusion:
1. The church is in constant need of men who will step up and dedicate their lives more fully to the service of God and his people.
 2. At the end of this service, the elders will be putting names before you to either confirm or reject according to the divine qualifications to serve as presbyters/pastors/bishops in this congregation.