

of God', they said. (23) Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust."

- Titus 1:5, NIV - "The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you."

4. Elders Bear The Ultimate Authority And Responsibility Over The Local Church

a) Elders Alone Direct The Church

- 1 Timothy 5:17, NIV — "The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching."

b) Elders Are The Representatives Of The Church

- Acts 20:17, NIV — "From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church."

c) Elders Together Make Decisions For The Local Church

- Acts 21:18, NIV — "The next day Paul and the rest of us went to see James, and all the elders were present."

d) Elders Direct The Finances Of The Local Church

- Acts 11:30, NIV — "(28) Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) (29) The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea. (30) This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul."

5. The Five-fold Ministry Serves The Elders On The Basis Of Relationship

- 1 Corinthians 9:1-2, NIV — "(1) Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? ... Are you not the result of my work in the Lord? (2) Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord."

LIVING AS THE CHURCH – THE FAMILY OF GOD

5 - How Should The Church Function?

David Hibbert / Nov 16/08 / www.destinychurch.ca / (450) 676-6944

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ELDERS AND DEACONS

1. An Old Testament Example

Numbers 3:5-10, NIV — (5) The LORD said to Moses, (6) 'Bring the tribe of Levi and present them to Aaron the priest to assist him. (7) They are to perform duties for him and for the whole community at the Tent of Meeting by doing the work of the tabernacle. (8) They are to take care of all the furnishings of the Tent of Meeting, fulfilling the obligations of the Israelites by doing the work of the tabernacle. (9) Give the Levites to Aaron and his sons: they are the Israelites who are to be given wholly to him. (10) Appoint Aaron and his sons to serve as priests: ..."

2. A New Testament Example

Acts 6:1-4, NIV — "(1) In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food (2) 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. (3) 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 (4) and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.'"

3. The Relationship Explained

- Elders govern, delegate authority to deacons to do specific tasks.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ELDERS AND CONGREGATION

1. The Elder's Responsibility To The Congregation

- 1 Peter 5:1-3, NIV — "(1) To the elders among you ... (2) 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; (3) not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock."

- a) Shepherd
- b) Eagerly Serve
- c) Be Examples
- 1 Thessalonians 5:12, NIV — *"Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you."*
 - d) Cover Spiritually ("Over you")
 - e) Encourage ("Admonish")
- 1 Timothy 5:17, NIV — *"The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching."*
 - f) Govern/Lead (Direct)
 - g) Preaching
 - h) Teaching
- Acts 20:28, NIV — *"Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. ..."*
 - i) Guard/Protect ("Keep Watch")
 - j) Oversee

2. The Congregation's Responsibility To The Elders

- a) Know, Appreciate And Respect The Elders
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:12, NIV — *"Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you."*
- b) Esteem/Hold In High Regard The Elders
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:13, NIV — *"Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other."*
- c) Submit To The Elders
 - Hebrews 13:17, NIV — *"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."*

d) Financially Bless The Elders

- 1 Timothy 5:17-18, NIV — *"(17) The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. (18) For the Scripture says, 'Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain', and 'The worker deserves his wages'."*

e) Trust And Support The Elders

- 1 Timothy 5:1, NIV - *"Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses."*

f) Pray For The Elders

- Hebrews 13:7, NIV — *"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you."*
- 1 Thessalonians 5:25, NIV — *"Brothers, pray for us."*

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ELDERS AND THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY

1. There Are Only Two "Offices" In The New Testament Church

- Philippians 1:1, NIV – *"Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:"*
- 1 Timothy 3:1,8, NIV – *"(1) Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task ... (8) Deacons, likewise"*

2. The Five Fold Are Support Ministries, Not Local Church Offices

- Ephesians 4:11-12, NIV - *(11) It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, (12) to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.*

3. The Office Of An Elder Is The Only One To Which We have An Actual Command To "Ordain" As A Governmental Position Whose Function Is "To Rule"

- Acts 14:21-23, NIV – *"(21) They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, (22) strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. 'We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom*

THE EXAMPLE OF THE EXTENDED FAMILY

- 1. The Elders Are Like Parents In The Family**
- 2. The Deacons Are Like The Older Brothers And Sisters.**
- 3. The Five-Fold Are Like Grand Parents**

THE EXAMPLE OF DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

- 1. Elders (The Parents)**
- 2. Senior Elder (Husband/Head)**
- 3. Deacons (The Older Brothers And Sisters)**
- 4. Congregation (The Children)**
- 5. The Five-Fold (The Grand-Parents)**
- 6. In Summary:**
 - The congregation does the ministry.
 - The deacons lead groups of members, to fulfill a specific ministry need.
 - The elders oversee (lead and train) the deacons and their groups, so that they can fulfill their ministries
 - The apostolic council gives wisdom and encouragement and guidance, to make the church more effective.
 - Holding it all together, and at its core, it the parental functioning of the elders, serving the congregation

FINAL CLARIFICATIONS TO THE CHURCH AS A FAMILY

- 1. The Elders Are “Spiritual” Parents, Not Natural Parents**
- 2. The Congregation Are “Adult Children”**

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