

“ORDAINED BELIEVERS, APPOINTED LEADERS”

Aug. 18, 2019

Introduction: The Importance of Leadership in the Church

Key Point: It is of great importance that we understand that while all believers have been _____ by the Lord for His work in the world, certain men are also _____ as leaders within the church in order to oversee and serve the body.

Ordained for Ministry

- Within the wider evangelical church, we tend to think of ‘ordination’ in terms of its common English usage:
“Ordain” — To invest officially (as by the laying on of hands) with ministerial or priestly authority. To confer holy orders upon someone.
- In the OT, ordination is associated with the priests being set apart for service to the Lord:
Exod. 28:41—And you shall put them on Aaron your brother, and on his sons with him, and shall anoint them and ordain (*male'*) them and consecrate (*qadash*) them, that they may serve me as priests.
“consecrate” — קדש (*qadash*) — To consecrate or sanctify. To make holy or set apart for sacred service.
⇒ This is the necessary _____ by which one becomes fit for ordination.
“ordain” — מלך (*male'*) — To make full or to be accomplished. Used as part of a Hebrew idiom: “To fill the _____”
⇒ The imagery is used to convey the idea of transferring _____ or conveying _____ to someone.
- We find these concepts repeated in the NT, but in a way that is intended to transform our understanding of ministerial authority.
 1. All _____ are set apart by God for His service.
John 17:17-19—¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.
1 Cor. 1:2—To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:
“sanctify” — ἁγιάζω (*hagiazō*) — To include a person in the inner circle of what is holy, in both cultic and moral associations of the word, consecrate, dedicate, sanctify.
⇒ It is the work of Christ _____ that accomplishes all that is necessary to set people apart for service to the Lord.
To proclaim the _____! (Acts 1:8)
To serve others using our spiritual _____! (Rom. 12:3-8)
 2. Certain men are appointed to positions of _____ within the local church.
Acts 6:3—Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.
Titus 1:5— This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—
“appoint” — καθίστημι (*kathistēmi*) — To assign someone a position of authority, to appoint or put in charge of.
⇒ Jesus delegated His authority to the leaders that He trained in order that the church might be both _____ upon His Word (Matt. 16:13-19) and _____ from sin (Matt. 18:15-18).
⇒ The apostles understood that they possessed this authority, delegating it to _____ men who they exhorted to go and do likewise.
2 Tim. 2:2—and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

Appointed Leaders

- We understand the NT to establish two leadership offices within the local church:

1. _____ (_____)

1 Tim. 3:1-7—3 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Duties: *"The duties of the elder involve shepherding the flock (Acts 20:28), teaching (1 Tim. 3:2), ruling or general leadership (1 Tim. 5:17), and guarding against error (Titus 1:9).* — The Moody Handbook of Theology

2. _____

1 Tim. 3:8-13—8 Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. 9 They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. 11 Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. 12 Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. 13 For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Duties: *"...the function of deacons is to be subordinate and auxiliary to the elders..."* — The Moody Handbook of Theology

Leadership in a Healthy Local Church

Acts 6:1-7—1 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. 2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

7 And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

- The leaders and the members of the body consider together the _____ needs of the church.
- Qualified men are then _____ through the collective authority of the church.
- The leaders recognize the authority of these men to serve the church in an _____ capacity through public prayer and the laying on of hands.
- If these leaders serve faithfully, the Word of God will _____ and the number of disciples can _____!