

THE WHOLE BIBLE: The Pastoral Epistles

THE PASTORAL EPISTLES

- 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus
- written to pastors about the organization and care of the local church
- broadly applicable to all Christians

1 TIMOTHY

- written to Timothy, pastoring in Ephesus (Acts 16:1-4)

1 Timothy 3:14-15

¹⁴I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

Importance of church government

- where does authority lie in the church?

3 forms of church government:

- Episcopalianism – rule by bishop | Episcopal, Catholic
- Presbyterianism – rule by elders | Presbyterian, Dutch Reformed
- Congregationalism – rule by congregation | Baptist

The biblical case for Presbyterianism

1 Timothy 3:1-7

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

Acts 15:2

Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.

2 TIMOTHY

- last letter by Paul before his death | written from prison
- written to encourage Timothy in the face of suffering
- ministry is suffering – “share in suffering for the gospel” (1:8)

2 Timothy 4:1-8

¹I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ²preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. ⁶For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

TITUS

- written to Titus, pastoring in Crete
- moral ordering in the life of the church

Titus 2:1-8

¹But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. ²Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. ³Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. ⁶Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. ⁷Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, ⁸and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

Notes

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1 TIMOTHY

- written to Timothy, pastoring in Ephesus (Acts 16:1-4)
- purpose of letter:

1 Timothy 3:14-15 ¹⁴ I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵ if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

“in the household of God”

- “household” is οἶκος – household family, extended family
- Christian life is not solitary existence, but inside of a family

Importance of church government | “church polity”

- people aversion to church government – church politics, fighting
- two reasons important: (1) clear instructions from Scripture
- (2) Lack of government does not spare us fights, but more fights
- absence of clarity and legitimacy in church government leads to fights
- God is not a God of chaos but of peace (1 Cor. 14:33)

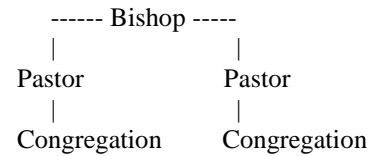
Where does authority lie in the church?

- democracy – people | Congregationalism (Baptist)
- republic – elders | Presbyterianism (Presbyterian)
- monarchy – bishop | Episcopalism (Catholic)

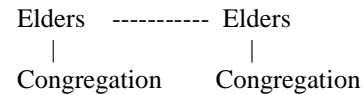
What is the relationship between churches?

- connectional or independent?
- 2 kinds of independent – non-denominational and denominational

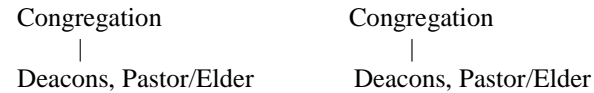
Episcopalism



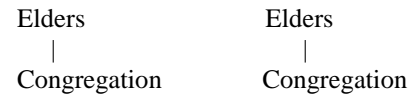
Presbyterianism



Congregationalism



Hybrid Congregationalism



The biblical case for Presbyterianism

- *episkopos* and *presbyteros* are interchangeable
- elders clearly have authority over the church | “manage” = rule

1 Timothy 3:1-7

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1 Peter 5:1-2, 5

So I exhort the elders among you, shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight...

Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders.

Connectionalism – Council of Jerusalem

- gathering of apostles and elders from multiple churches
- decision is binding for all churches

Acts 15:2

Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.

2 TIMOTHY

- last letter by Paul before his death | written in prison
- written to encourage Timothy in the face of suffering
- ministry is suffering – “share in suffering for the gospel” (1:8)
- suffering demonstrates authenticity of message
- powerful delivery | to love people is to suffer

2 Timothy 4:1-8

¹ I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:

² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. ⁵ As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

- “preach the word; be ready in season and out of season”
 - good times and bad times | when people eager, not eager
- “reprove” is ἐλέγχω – show someone their fault, criticize
- “rebuke” is ἐπιτιμάω – warn of consequences
- “exhort” is παρακαλέω – encourage, speak truth, make an appeal
- “with complete patience and teaching” – manner of appeal
- “for time is coming when people not endure sound teaching”
 - human beings naturally hate rebuke and correction
- “sober-minded” – don’t be swayed too much by emotions, problems
- “endure suffering” – ministry is full of suffering and hardship
- “do work of an evangelist” – bring people to Christ
- “poured out as a drink offering” – life is expended for Christ
- “fought the good fight, finished race, kept faith”
 - Christian life is a “fight” and a “race”
 - arduous, full of difficulty, requiring discipline and training
 - not: “coasted through Christian life” or “slacked and got by”
- “crown of righteousness” – there is a reward awaiting us
 - “well done, good and faithful servant”
 - LOTR, hobbits honored at Aragorn’s coronation