

## Pastoral Authority

- I. Authority- 1. a. Power or right to enforce obedience; moral or legal supremacy; the right to command, or give an ultimate decision.
- II. The derivation of pastoral authority.
  1. All authority originates from God, and is given by God (**Rom 13:1-2**).
  2. Power - II. As a person, body, or thing. 6. a. One who or that which is possessed of or exercises power, influence, or government; an influential or governing person, body, or thing; in early use, one in authority, a ruler, governor.
  3. God gave Jesus authority to execute judgment when He came in the flesh (**Joh 5:27**).
    - A. This was evident to the people whom Jesus taught by the manner in which He taught (**Mar 1:22**).
    - B. When Jesus was resurrected and assumed the throne of David, ALL power and authority was given unto Him (**Mat 28:18**).
  4. Because all power and authority was given to Christ, He gave delegated some of His authority to His ministers whom He ordained (**Mat 28:19; Joh 15:16**).
    - A. Jesus spoke of the giving of this authority to His ministers by way of a parable (**Mar 13:34**).
    - B. The authority that Jesus' ministers were given was demonstrated by the fact that they taught like He did (**Act 4:13**).
    - C. Paul affirmed that it was the Lord that had given him and his fellow ministers that authority (**2Co 10:8**).
    - D. Paul enjoined the men which he ordained to exercise the authority which they had been given (**Tit 2:15**).
  5. Therefore those who resist the God-given authority of a man set over them resist the authority of God (**Rom 13:2; Luk 10:16**).
    - A. Despise v. 1. *trans.* To look down upon; to view with contempt; to think scornfully or slightingly of.
    - B. Contempt n. 1. The action of contemning or despising; the holding or treating as of little account, or as vile and worthless; the mental attitude in which a thing is so considered. (At first applied to the action, in modern use almost exclusively to the mental attitude or feeling.)
- III. The office of the pastor.
  1. There are many names given for the office of a pastor, which include:
    - A. A pastor (**Eph 4:11**).
      - i. Pastor - *Etymology* L. pastor-em shepherd, lit. 'feeder, giver of pasture', 1. A herdsman or shepherd. 2. A shepherd of souls; one who has the spiritual oversight over a company or body of Christians, as bishop, priest, minister, etc.; spec. the minister in charge of a church or congregation, with particular reference to the spiritual care of his 'flock'.
      - ii. Peter was one such man (**Joh 21:15-17 c/w 1Pe 5:1-2**).
      - iii. The elders of the church at Ephesus were likewise (**Act 20:17 c/w Act 20:28**).
      - iv. As a pastor, the pastor spiritually feeds the church.

- B. An elder (**Tit 1:5; Act 14:23; Act 20:17 c/w 28; 1Ti 5:17; 1Pe 5:1-2**).
- i. Elder - B. n. An elder person, lit. and fig. 1. a. A parent [cf. mod.G. eltern pl.]; an ancestor, forefather; hence, in wider sense, a predecessor, one who lived in former days. 4. a. In ecclesiastical use. ...the title given to a certain order or class of office-bearers in the early Christian Church....
  - ii. As the elder, the pastor is to be viewed as the patriarch of the church.
- C. A bishop (**1Ti 3:1-2; Tit 1:7; Php 1:1**).
- i. Bishop - 1. A spiritual superintendent or overseer in the Christian Church.
  - ii. Superintendent - 1. a. An officer or official who has the chief charge, oversight, control, or direction of some business, institution, or works; an overseer.
  - iii. Oversight - 1. a. Supervision, superintendence, inspection; charge, care, management, control.
  - iv. Control - n. 1. a. The fact of controlling, or of checking and directing action; the function or power of directing and regulating; domination, command, sway.
  - v. As the bishop, the pastor is a spiritual supervisor of the church who checks and directs its action.
- D. An overseer (**Act 20:28**).
- i. Overseer - 1. a. One who oversees or superintends, a supervisor; esp. one whose business it is to superintend a piece of work, or a body of workmen; a superintendent (of workmen, slaves, convicts, etc.).
  - ii. As the overseer, the pastor oversees and superintends the membership of the church.
- E. A steward (**Tit 1:7; Luk 12:42; 1Co 4:1-2**).
- i. Steward - 1. a. An official who controls the domestic affairs of a household, supervising the service of his master's table, directing the domestics, and regulating household expenditure; a major-domo.
  - ii. As the steward, the pastor has the control of the domestic affairs of the church, including a final say concerning its finances.
- F. A minister (**1Co 4:1; Act 26:16; Rom 15:16; Eph 3:7; Col 1:23; 1Th 3:2; 1Ti 4:6**).
- i. Minister - 1. a. A servant, attendant. 2. a. One who acts under the authority of another; one who carries out executive duties as the agent or representative of a superior.
  - ii. As the minister, the pastor is a servant of the church and a representative of Jesus Christ who carries out the executive duties which Christ gives him in His word.
2. Notice how all these are titles for the same office and are used interchangeably in the Bible.
- A. A pastor:
- i. A pastor is an overseer (**Act 20:28**).
  - ii. A pastor is an elder (**Act 20:17 c/w Act 20:28; 1Pe 5:1-2**).
- B. An elder:
- i. An elder is an overseer (**Act 20:17 c/w Act 20:28**).
  - ii. An elder is a bishop (**Tit 1:5-7**).
  - iii. An elder is a pastor (**1Pe 5:1-2**).

- C. A bishop:
  - i. A bishop is an elder (**Tit 1:5-7**).
  - ii. A bishop is an overseer and a steward (see definitions).
- D. An overseer:
  - i. An overseer is an elder (**1Pe 5:1-2**).
  - ii. An overseer is a pastor (**Act 20:28**).
  - iii. An overseer is a bishop and steward (see definitions).
- E. A steward:
  - i. A steward is a bishop (**Tit 1:7**).
  - ii. A steward is an elder (**Tit 1:5-7**).
  - iii. A steward is a minister (**1Co 4:1**).
  - iv. A steward is a bishop and an overseer (see definitions).
- F. A minister is a steward (**1Co 4:1**).
- G. Therefore the man given the charge of a church is its pastor, elder, bishop, overseer, steward, and minister.

IV. Church members are commanded by God to submit to the authority of the man whom God has made their overseer.

1. Pastors have the rule over their congregations (**Heb 13:7**).
  - A. Rule - *n.* I. 1. a. A principle, regulation, or maxim governing individual conduct.
  - B. Those who have the rule over the church are those who have spoken unto them the word of God (the pastor) (**Heb 13:7**).
  - C. Their faith is supposed to be an example to be followed (**Heb 13:7 c/w 1Ti 4:12**).
  - D. Church members are to *consider* the *conversation* of their pastor and follow it (**Heb 13:7**).
  - E. Consider - *v.* 1. To view or contemplate attentively, to survey, examine, inspect, scrutinize.
  - F. Conversation - *n.* 1. The action of living or having one's being in a place or among persons. Also fig. of one's spiritual being.
  - G. This is a grave responsibility for a pastor. To whom much is given, much is required (**Luk 12:48**).
2. Pastors are to be obeyed and submitted to (**Heb 13:17**).
  - A. Obey - *v.* 1. *trans.* a. To comply with, or perform, the bidding of; to do what one is commanded by (a person); to submit to the rule or authority of, to be obedient to.
  - B. Submit - *v.* I. 1. *refl.* and *intr.* To place oneself under the control of a person in authority or power; to become subject, surrender oneself, or yield to a person or his rule, etc.
  - C. A fundamental reason for obeying and submitting to a pastor is because he watches for your souls (**Heb 13:17**).
    - i. Watch - *v.* II. 9. a. To keep under surveillance (a prisoner, a besieged army) in order to prevent escape or rescue; to set an armed watch upon (a place, road, passage). b. To guard (a dead body, goods). 13. a. To exercise protecting vigilance over; to tend (a flock). 1526 Tindale Luke ii. 8 There were...shepherds... watching their flocks by night.
    - ii. A pastor (A herdsman or shepherd) is supposed to know the state of his flock (**Pro 27:23**).
    - iii. God gave his prophets of old the same charge (**Eze 3:17**).

- D. The pastor watches for the souls of his flock because he must give an account of them to God (**Heb 13:17 c/w Luk 16:1-2**).
    - i. A true pastor will watch for his flock and will instruct and rebuke as necessary to ensure that the sheep are not going astray; therefore it is in the best interest of the sheep to obey and submit to his authority.
    - ii. An hireling will not watch for the sheep, but will rather flee when he sees trouble coming (**Joh 10:12-13**).
  - 3. A position of authority and oversight is a difficult and lonely position.
    - A. You've heard it said, "It's lonely at the top."
    - B. The pastor who is not a lonely man is a fool.
- V. Pastors are supposed to teach, instruct, reprove, rebuke, exhort, and admonish their church members.
1. Reproofs of instruction are the way of life (**Pro 6:23**).
  2. A primary job of a pastor is to reprove and rebuke (**2Ti 4:2; 2Ti 3:16; Tit 2:15**).
    - A. Reprove - 1. *trans.* To reject. 2. To express disapproval of (conduct, actions, beliefs, etc.); to censure, condemn. 3. To reprehend, rebuke, blame, chide, or find fault with (a person).
    - B. Rebuke - 1. *trans.* To beat down or force back; to repress or check (a person); to repulse. 2. To reprove, reprimand, chide severely. b. To express blame or reprehension of (a quality, action, etc.) by reproof or reprimand addressed to persons.
    - C. Chide - 1. *intr.* To give loud or impassioned utterance to anger, displeasure, disapprobation, reproof. a. To contend with loud and angry altercation; to brawl, wrangle. b. To give loud and angry expression to dissatisfaction and displeasure; to scold. c. To scold by way of rebuke or reproof; in later usage, often merely, to utter rebuke.
  3. A pastor is to exhort his church members (**2Ti 4:2; 1Ti 4:13; 1Th 2:11; Tit 1:9; Tit 2:6,9,15**).
    - A. Exhort - 1. *trans.* To admonish earnestly; to urge by stimulating words to conduct regarded as laudable. Said also of circumstances, etc.: To serve as an incitement.
    - B. Admonish - 1. *gen.* To put (a person) in mind of duties; to counsel against wrong practices; to give authoritative or warning advice; to exhort, to warn.
  4. A pastor is to admonish, and warn the flock under his care (**1Th 5:12; Col 1:28**).
  5. Warn - II. To make aware, to put on one's guard. 2. a. *trans.* To give timely notice to (a person) of impending danger or misfortune.
  6. A pastor must defend the truth and charge some that they teach no other doctrine (**1Ti 1:3**).
  7. Sharp rebuke is necessary at times (**Tit 1:13**).
  8. Sharply - 1. Severely, sternly, harshly. b. Of speech, rebuke, command: Sternly, severely, harshly, peremptorily; in cutting terms; in stern or angry tones.
  9. Public rebuke is sometimes necessary (**1Ti 5:20**).
- VI. Pastors are not to be lords over God's church, nor rule according to their self-interest, but should seek the best for the church under their care.
1. A pastor is not to be a lord over the church of which God has given him the oversight (**1Pe 5:3 c/w Eze 34:1-4**).

2. The church is God's, not the pastor's (**1Pe 5:3 c/w Act 20:28 c/w Deu 32:9**).
3. Heritage - 1. That which has been or may be inherited; any property, and esp. land, which devolves by right of inheritance.
4. The pastor is supposed to be an ensample (example) to the flock (**1Pe 5:3; Phi 3:17; 1Ti 4:12; Tit 2:7-8**); therefore he should expect no more out of the church than he does of himself.
  - A. Ensample - Example
  - B. Example - 1. A typical instance; a fact, incident, quotation, etc. that illustrates, or forms a particular case of, a general principle, rule, state of things, etc.; a person or thing that may be taken as an illustration of a certain quality.

VII. A pastor should be held in very high regard.

1. Church members should esteem their pastor very highly for his works' sake and for the office he holds (**1Th 5:12-13**).
2. Esteem *v.* - 1. *trans.* To estimate the value of, assign (a value) to; to value, assess, appraise.
3. It is because of the office (**Rom 11:13**) a pastor holds and the work he does, not because of his personality, that he should be esteemed highly.
  - A. Paul's converts thought very highly of him (**Act 17:34; Gal 4:14-15**).
  - B. Paul instructed the church at Philippi to receive the minister Epaphroditus and hold him in reputation (**Phi 2:29**).
  - C. Reputation - 1. a. Opinion, supposition; also, the opinion or view of one about something. 2. The common or general estimate of a person with respect to character or other qualities; the relative estimation or esteem in which a person or thing is held. In phrases: †a. *in* (or of) *reputation*. In later use applied to titles given by courtesy. Obs. (Cf. 3b.) 3. The condition, quality, or fact, of being highly regarded or esteemed; credit, note, or distinction; also, respectability, good report. b. In other prepositional phrases, esp. *in reputation*. (Cf. 2a.)
4. An elder is not to be rebuked like a sibling, but rather intreated like a father (**1Ti 5:1**).
  - A. Intreat *v.* - obs. or arch. form of *entreat*.
  - B. Entreat *v.* - II. With additional sense of asking, asking of somebody or for something.
  - C. An elder should be asked, not told or demanded of.
5. Uncorroborated accusations are not to be received against an elder (**1Ti 5:19**).

VIII. The youth of a pastor is no reason to refuse to submit to his authority or to make light of him.

1. Paul told the young preacher Timothy to let no man despise his youth (**1Ti 4:12**).
  - A. Paul also told the church at Corinth to not despise Timothy (**1Co 16:11**).
  - B. Paul told Titus the same thing (**Tit 2:15**).
    - i. Despise - 1. *trans.* To look down upon; to view with contempt; to think scornfully or slightly of.
    - ii. Contempt - 1. The action of contemning or despising; the holding or treating as of little account, or as vile and worthless; the mental attitude in which a thing is so considered.
    - iii. Slightly - In a slighting manner; contemptuously, disdainfully; with little regard or respect.

- C. Despising the authority one is under brings a man under the judgment of God (**2Pe 2:10; Jud 1:8; Exo 22:28**).
2. **1Ti 5:1** says to "Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father..."
- A. This verse doesn't forbid a pastor from rebuking someone older than himself, nor does it mean that a pastor is totally immune from rebuke.
  - B. If someone is so much as a few minutes older than another, he is his elder in age (**Rom 9:12**).
    - i. If this forbids a pastor from rebuking someone older than himself, then in some cases a pastor cannot rebuke many or most of the church. How then can he fulfill **2Ti 4:2** and **1Ti 4:11-12**?
    - ii. In **Tit 2:15**; Titus was commanded to teach, exhort, AND REBUKE the things noted in that chapter, which included instruction to aged men and women (**Tit 2:2-3**).
    - iii. The elder in **1Ti 5:1** cannot be limited to the elder in age. The language is broad enough to include the elder in office also.
    - iv. In the church, God gives the elder in office authority over the elder in age: pastors oversee ALL the flock (**Act 20:28**).
    - v. Timothy was to impart this instruction to the church at large, that the members might be blameless (**1Ti 5:7**).
  - C. Consider the definitions.
    - i. Rebuke - 1. *trans.* To beat down or force back; to repress or check (a person); to repulse. 2. To reprove, reprimand, chide severely. b. To express blame or reprehension of (a quality, action, etc.) by reproof or reprimand addressed to persons.
    - ii. Intreat - I. To treat; to handle. II. With additional sense of asking, asking of somebody or for something.
  - D. This is instruction to the church members to personally appeal to one another as in a family.
  - E. In families, the father is generally not to be rebuked. So, too, Christ's minister should be respected and intreated as a father.
  - F. A minister should intreat older men as fathers and older women as mothers in a personal context.
  - G. But in the office of pastor, he must deal with older members as with the rest, rebuking as required (**1Ti 5:20-21**).
  - H. A distinction must be made between a minister's personal and official relationships.
3. The Lord will be with a young man whom He has called to the ministry (**Jer 1:4-10**).