

DUNAMIS

Power Hour

for the love of the Word

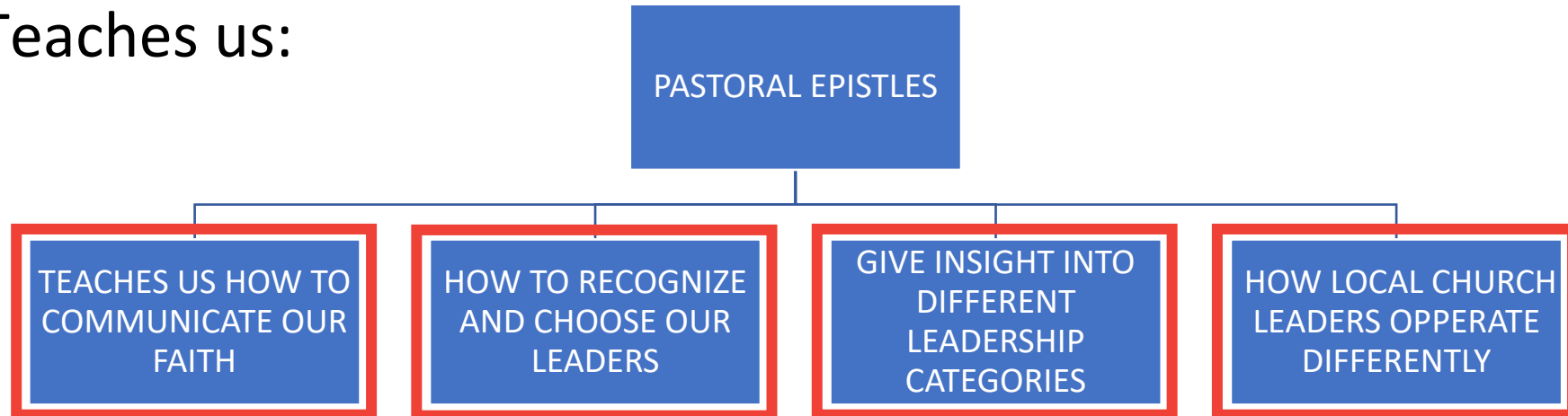
----- journey through the Bible -----



Church Leadership

Overview

- Pastoral Epistles are Paul’s “last words” to leaders of the young church
- 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, 1 & 2 Thessalonians
- Teaches us:



Overview

- Church is God's idea not man's idea.
- The brief letters introduce the following: apostles, overseers (bishops), elders and deacons – and what the role and function of each
- Paul encourages Timothy to commit to what he has been taught by reliable men
- Paul raises the topic of why women should not function as leaders in the church and if they are leaders, what are the specific role they should take

The Pastorals are a great source of teaching on leadership



power in action

Church Leadership



power in action

Questions answered by the Pastoral Books

- Paul (with Timothy and Titus) did not function as local church leaders – what were they?
- What was the task of elders? What about Pastors?
- Elders were appointed on the Apostles' return visit. Why?
- The Letters specifically deal with male leadership – what about women in the local church? Can they be leaders?
- These questions are not to challenge our own forms of church government – but it helps to understand spiritual leadership and its function in the local church



Leadership Terms - Apostle

- Apostle – Ambassador, delegate, messenger (missionary). Originally used for 12 disciples and of Paul. They had a unique authority in all the churches. There were other apostles such as Barnabas, Andronicus and Junius. They were all travelling ministers, travelling widely, founding and guiding a number of local congregations – same as modern missionaries

ap-os'-tol-os

- From G649; a *delegate*; specifically an **ambassador** of the Gospel; officially a **commissioner** of Christ (“apostle”), (with miraculous powers): - apostle, messenger, he that is sent.
- apostolos (G652) is, lit., **“one sent forth”** (apo, “from,” stello, “to send”).

1Ti 1:1

Paul, an **apostle** of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope, re their robes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting,



power in action

Leadership Terms - Apostle

- There are a lot of debate whether modern apostles exist – if they do – they fall into the category of “apostle” and not “Apostle”
- If there are apostolic ministries, they will operate the same as in the New Testament – their ministry will extend beyond ministry in a single local church
- Titles should not be important in the Church, but if a person/ministry calls themselves an Apostle/Apostolic Ministry, there should be fruit of founding of multiple congregations.



Leadership Terms - Bishops

- Greek for overseer, one who takes care of
- Jesus is called “Bishop of your souls”
- Special responsibility to take care and watch out for

1 Peter 2:25 AMP

For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Qualifications for Bishops/Overseers

1Ti 3:1 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

1Ti 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;



Leadership Terms - Bishops

Qualifications for Bishops/Overseers

1Ti 3:3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

1Ti 3:4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

1Ti 3:5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

1Ti 3:6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

1Ti 3:7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Tit_1:7 For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money



Leadership Terms -Elder

- Greek refers to age – older one
- Roman and Latin terms is senatus or senator
- Teams of elders were responsible for overseeing local congregations
- *pres-boo'-ter-os (Presbyterian Church)*
- *Comparative of πρέσβυς presbus (elderly); older; as noun, a senior; specifically an Israelite Sanhedrist (also figuratively, member of the celestial council) or Christian “presbyter”:- elder (-est), old.*



Leadership Terms -Elder

Qualifications for Elders (Titus uses the words Bishop and Elders interchangeable)

Tit 1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—

Tit 1:6 if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.

Tit 1:7 For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,

Tit 1:8 but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled,

Tit 1:9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.



Leadership Terms - Elder

Acts 14:21-23

They preached the good news to that city and made many disciples, then they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening and establishing the hearts of the disciples; encouraging them to remain firm in the faith, saying, "It is through many tribulations and hardships that we must enter the kingdom of God."

When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they entrusted them to the Lord in whom they believed [and joyfully accepted as the Messiah].

Titus 1:5

For this reason I left you behind in Crete, so that you would set right what remains unfinished, and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,

- Elders were appointed only on subsequent visits of the missionaries to congregations they established
- The congregation had to exist for some time before those whose growth toward maturity and whose gifts would be recognized by the local community could be appointed as elders
- They function within a local congregation and assembled with other elders to consider matters that affected Christians
- 1Ti 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.



power in action

Leadership Terms - Elder

- The word Elder suggests age and certainly indicates spiritual maturity
- Elders requires distinctive spiritual gifts, and a developed Christian Character
- All of God's people is called to spiritual maturity – but not every mature believer is called to serve as an elder

1 Tim 5:17

The **elders who perform their leadership duties** well are to be considered worthy of double honor (financial support), especially those who **work hard at preaching and teaching** [the word of God concerning eternal salvation through Christ]

- A critical ministry of elders is mentioned in 1 Tim 5:17
- Elders who direct the affairs of the church – suggests both administrative and judicial



power in action

Leadership Terms - Elder

1 Peter 2:25

For you were continually wandering like [so many] sheep, but now you have come back to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

- There are **no detailed tasks** of an elder **but hints** are found in The New Testament
- **Gifts of overseeing** are needed to understand and guard processes and relationships which permit the local community to function in an organized way
- An elder calls for **insight into the nature** of the church and an understanding of how the body functions and the way the gift of administration operates



power in action

Leadership Terms - Deacons

- The Greek word means “to serve” or to wait on
- A deacon literally is the servant of someone
- In the New Testament church was a helper, or agent of the governing authorities
- Acts 6:1-15 the Apostles appointed the deacons to supervise food distribution to needy Christian widows.
- There were high **spiritual qualifications** for this service; yet it was recognized as a subordinate ministry established to free the apostles for teaching and prayer
- Refer to Moses – Jethro tells him he needs helpers



Leadership Terms - Deacons

Qualifications for Deacons

1Ti 3:8 Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money,

1Ti 3:9 holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.

1Ti 3:10 But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless.

1Ti 3:11 Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.

1Ti 3:12 Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

1Ti 3:13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.



power in action

Multiple Local Leadership

- Some see the Pastoral Epistles and Other New Testament books challenge contemporary practice of hiring a single pastor
- 1 Tim 5:17-18 shows that some local church leaders gave their full time to ministry

1 Tim 5:17-18

The **elders** who perform their leadership duties well are to be considered worthy of double honor (financial support), especially those who **work hard at preaching and teaching** [the word of God concerning eternal salvation through Christ].

- They were supported by the congregation “especially those whose work is preaching and teaching”
- There must ultimately be one responsible leader – but there must be a team i.e. department heads, financial boards, etc
- Elders direct the affairs of the church 1 Tim 5:17 and Tit 1:5
- 1Ti 5:17 Let the **elders who rule** well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.



power in action

Why Multiple Leadership?

- No Individual can expect to have all the spiritual gifts needed to adequately oversee the life of a congregation – We need a blend of gifts
- Leaders need to be close to individuals in the congregation and to be aware of doctrinal and practical needs. No one individual can develop close enough relationships with all members of typical congregation
- We are all human and fallible. Team leadership permits discipline, correction and instruction of leaders by other leaders
- Leaders give leadership by example – an individual may provide a good example of individual qualities; no individual can model a functioning body. A leadership team can be an example of the loving, caring community the whole church is to become



Reliable Men

Following questions are asked:

1. Must leaders always be men?
2. May women be elders?
3. May women be pastors?
4. And if not, why not?



power in action

Reliable Men Continue

- We need to review how the New Testament affirms the equality of women with men in the body of Christ
- Women were with the original disciples after Jesus's ascension, and "they all joined together constantly in prayer"

Acts 1:14

All these with *one* mind and *one* purpose were continually devoting themselves to prayer, [waiting together] along with *the* women, and Mary *the* mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.



power in action

Reliable Men Continue

- The conversions of individual women are noted like Lydia and Damaris

Acts 16:14-15

A woman named Lydia, from *the* city of Thyatira, a dealer in purple fabrics who was [already] a worshiper of God, listened to us; and *the* Lord opened her heart to pay attention and to respond to *the* things said by Paul.

And when she was baptized, along with her household, she pleaded with us, saying, “If you have judged me and decided that I am faithful to *the* Lord [a true believer], come to my house and stay.”
And she persuaded us.

Acts 17:34

But some men joined him and believed; among them were Dionysius, [a judge] of *the* Council of Areopagus, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.



power in action

Reliable Men Continue

- Scriptures records that “not a few prominent women” and “a number of prominent Greek women” believed

Acts 17:4

And some *of* them were persuaded to believe and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number *of the* God-fearing Greeks and many *of the leading women*.

Acts 17:12

As a result many *of* them became believers, together with a number *of prominent* Greek women and men.

- Paul ended his letter to the Romans with a list of notes to special people in the church there; a third of these are women
- Remember Deborah of the Old Testament



power in action

Reliable Men Continue

- Paul referred to women as his **fellow workers** who have contended at “my side in the cause of the Gospel”

Phill 4:3

Indeed, I ask you too, my true companion, to help these **women** [to keep on cooperating], for they have shared my struggle *in* the [cause of the] gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are *in* the Book of Life

- **Phoebe was a deaconess**

Rom 16:1-2

Now I introduce and commend to you our sister **Phoebe, a deaconess** (servant) of the church at Cenchrea, that you may receive her *in* the Lord [with love and hospitality], as God’s people ought to receive one another. And that you may help her *in* whatever matter she may require assistance from you, for she has been a helper of many, including myself.

There are specific tasks clearly more suited to women (such as assisting another woman at baptism, counseling women on relating to husbands and children, etc)



Reliable Men Continue

- In the Age of the Spirit, even the gift of prophecy (which many feel includes proclamation or preaching) is for daughters as well as sons

Acts 2:18

Even on My bond-servants, both men and women, I will in those days pour out My Spirit And they shall prophesy.

1 Cor 11:5

And every woman who prays or prophesies when she has her head uncovered disgraces her head; for she is *one* and the same as the woman whose head is shaved [*in disgrace*]

Gal 3:28

There is [now no distinction in regard to salvation] neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you [who believe] are all one in Christ Jesus [no one can claim a spiritual superiority].

I believe Paul's message of not permitting woman as leaders was due to the cultural environment of the age



power in action

The Well-being of the Body

- God's church is to glorify Him
- To praise and worship the Lord and Head, Jesus Christ
- To build up and to encourage its individual members
- Not every member of a congregation will hold an office – but every member ought to be ministering to others
- Exercising the gifts he or she has been given
- On what basis do we choose leadership in the church?
- Look at the qualifications that is set out by Scripture
- Look for those who are mature and who are ministering in ways that serve the people of God



THANK YOU