

# Church Organization

**Matt 16:18-19** *And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. NKJV*

**Col 1:15-18** *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. NKJV*

Jesus is the head of \_\_\_\_\_ church!

**Acts 1:12-17** *Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. 13 And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. 14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. 15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, 16 "Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; 17 for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry." NKJV*

The church started out with 12 apostles and 120 disciples.

**Acts 2:41-47** *Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. NKJV*

Those who gladly received the word were baptized and were added to "them." They were now disciples. You now have 12 apostles and about 3,120 \_\_\_\_\_.

**Acts 4:32** *Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. 33 And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. 34 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, 35 and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need. ... **Acts 5:1** *But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. 2 And**

he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. NKJV

The "multitude of those who believed", disciples, were \_\_\_\_\_ while the apostles gave witness to the resurrection.

Not only were the apostles spreading the gospel, they were taking care of collecting and \_\_\_\_\_ the funds generously given by the disciples.

**Acts 6:1-7** Now in those days, when the **number of the disciples was multiplying**, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. 2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. 3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, 6 whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. 7 Then the word of God spread, and the **number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem**, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. NKJV

Since the church was growing so fast, the apostles couldn't adequately give themselves to their primary work of praying and teaching and continue to "serve tables", so they \_\_\_\_\_ seven men to help the Hellenist widows.

When Saul was persecuting the church, the disciples were \_\_\_\_\_ throughout Judea and Samaria. (Acts 8:1)

Paul is converted and is \_\_\_\_\_ by the Lord as an apostle.

**Acts 11:27-30** And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. 29 Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. 30 This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul. NKJV

In this passage we see that there were elders in the churches of \_\_\_\_\_.

When the Christians in Antioch sent money to the brethren dwelling in Judea, they sent it to the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Acts 14:21-26** And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." 23 So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. 24 And after they had passed through Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia. 25 Now when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. 26 From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had completed. NKJV

One of the things Paul and Barnabas did on the first missionary journey was to appoint elders in \_\_\_\_\_ church.

This was such an important task it was accompanied with prayer and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Acts 15:22-23** *Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren. 23 They wrote this, letter by them: The apostles, the elders, and the brethren, To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings. NKJV*

In Jerusalem we see the apostles were still there, along with elders and the whole church, or the brethren.

**Acts 20:17-29** *From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. 18 And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, 19 serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; 20 how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, 21 testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. 22 And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. 24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. 25 "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. 26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. 28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. NKJV*

In this passage the Bible refers to the same group of men as \_\_\_\_\_ (17) and \_\_\_\_\_ (28).

They are told to **shepherd** (28) the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

The word translated shepherd means "to feed" and is where we get the word \_\_\_\_\_.

**Phil 1:1-2** *Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. NKJV*

In the New Testament church there was \_\_\_\_\_ office described by the terms elder, overseer, bishop, shepherd, and pastor.

We also find the term \_\_\_\_\_ used here to describe men who are distinguished from bishops and saints.

The word deacon simply means one who runs errands, a \_\_\_\_\_, or a waiter. (Strong's)

The seven men chosen to help the widows in Acts 6 were deacons.

**CHURCH GOVERNMENT (2) Local.** - There were two clearly distinct offices of a local and permanent kind in the New Testament churches. Paul (Phil 1:1) addresses "all the saints in Christ Jesus that are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons." See BISHOP ; DEACON . The most common designation of the first of these officers is "elder" (presbuteros). In one passage (Eph 4:11) he is called "pastor" (poimen). In Acts 20:17-28, it becomes clear that the office of elder, bishop, and pastor was one; for there the apostle charges the elders of the church at Ephesus to feed (pastor) the church in which the Holy Spirit has made them bishops (compare Titus 1:5,7; 1 Peter 5:1-2). (from International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia)

**1 Tim 3:1-3** *This is a faithful saying: If a man desires **the position** of a bishop, he desires a good **work**. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach... 8 Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money.... NKJV*

**Titus 1:5-9** *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 — 6 if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. 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, 8 but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, 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. NKJV*

An elder or bishop is \_\_\_\_\_ to a \_\_\_\_\_.

Elders are not informal leaders that come about organically.

Historically, God has wanted His people to \_\_\_\_\_ who He has chosen to lead His people.

**Eph 4:11-16** *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ — 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. NKJV*

The church no longer has apostles because apostles had to be \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord's life and resurrection.

The church no longer has inspired prophets because God's inspiration ended once the revelation was completed. The church still has evangelists, pastors and teachers. However, we have no indication from Scripture that evangelists and teachers are appointed positions.

We also don't see any church organization outside the \_\_\_\_\_ church.

## Summary

**Phil 1:1-2** *Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. NKJV*

A church is made up of saints. All saved people are saints, believers, disciples, and Christians.

God's plan is for a church to have bishops, also known as overseers, pastors, shepherds, and elders.

God's plan is also for a church to have deacons to serve the local congregation in various ways.