

HEALTHY CHURCH 8: CHURCH GOVERNMENT

1. NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGES ON CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Mark 10:42-45

John 13:14-16

Acts 14:23

Acts 20:17-38

Ephesians 4:11-12

I Thessalonians 5:12-13

1 Timothy 3:1-13

1 Timothy 5:17-18

2 Timothy 1:13-14, 2:1-2

Titus 1:5-9

1 Peter 5:1-5

Hebrews 13:7, 17

2. THE CHURCH IS GOVERNED BY ELDERS

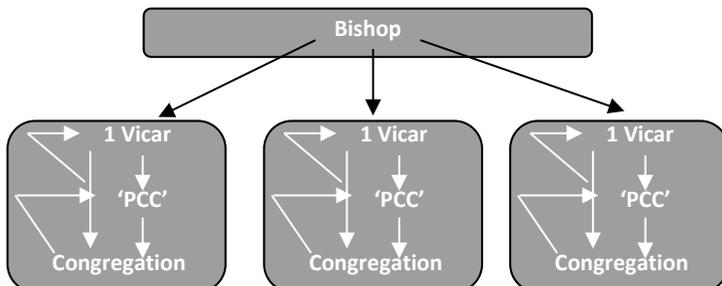
(a) Key terms: elder = overseer = pastor-teacher

- “elder” (Greek: *presbuteros*)
- “overseer” (*episkopos*)
- “pastor” or “pastor-teacher” (*poimen / poimen kai didaskalos*)

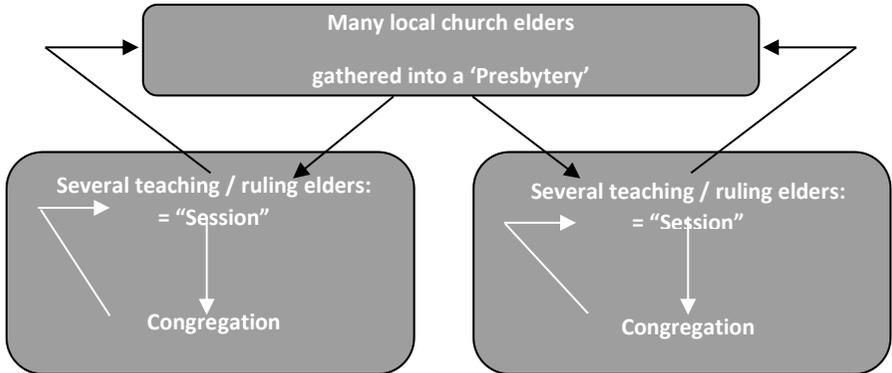
(b) Elders: plural and local

(c) The relationship between elders, congregation and denomination

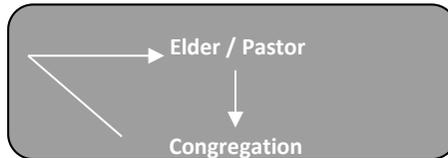
- Episcopal church government



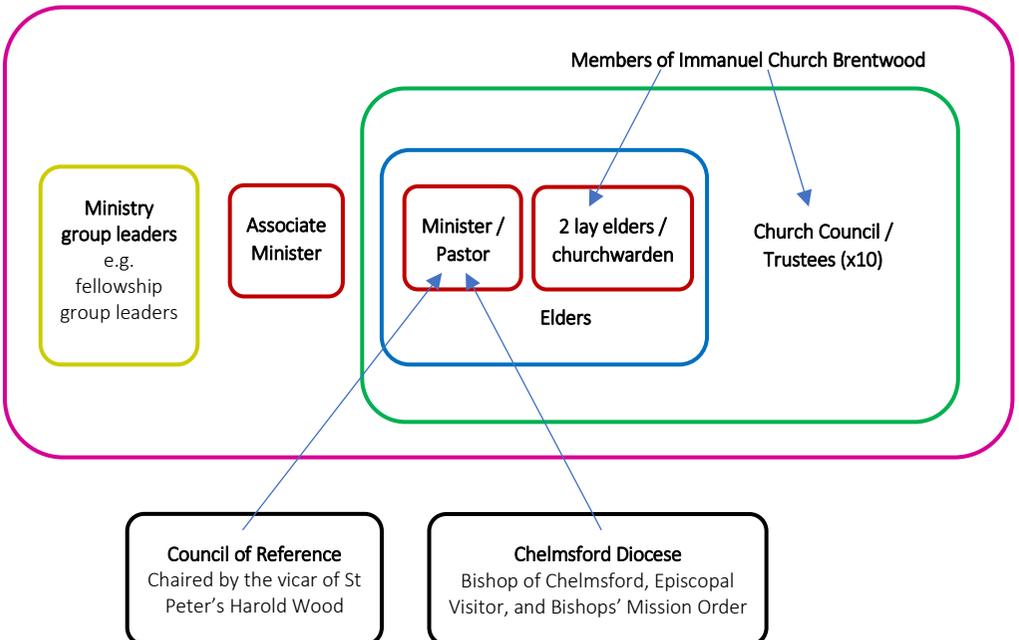
- **Presbyterian church government**



- **Independent churches: congregationally governed or elder led**



- **Church government at Immanuel**



3. CHURCH ELDERS MUST LIVE THE TRUTH

- **Titus 1: the why and the what of godliness**

- **Some applications:**

Ungodly leaders are repulsive

Pray for elders and leaders

Leaders: set an example!

Us all: it's just normal godliness!

4. CHURCH ELDERS MUST KNOW THE TRUTH

- **E.g. Titus 1:9**
Deep understanding... conviction... → ability to teach and to refute
(e.g. Titus 2:1,2,3,6,9,15, 3:1,8)
- **Some applications:**
Elders do NOT need to be able to...

Expect teaching...

Expect correction/refuting of error...

Hebrews 13:17

TOP BOOK RECOMMENDATION: "CHURCH ELDERS," BY JERAMIE RINNE

APPENDIX: PORTRAIT OF THE PASTOR-TEACHER FROM BUNYAN'S *PILGRIMS PROGRESS*

Interpreter. Then said the Interpreter, Come in, I will shew thee that which will be profitable to thee. So he commanded his man to light the Candle, and bid Christian follow him, so he had him into a private room, and bid his man open a door; the which when he had done, Christian saw the Picture of a very grave Person hang up against the wall; and this was the fashion of it.

It had eyes lifted up to Heaven, the best of Books in his hand, the Law of Truth was written upon his lips, the World was behind his back. It stood as if it pleaded with men, and a Crown of Gold did hang over his head.

Christian. Then said Christian, What means this?

Interpreter. The Man whose Picture this is, is one of a thousand; he can beget children, travel in birth with children, and nurse them himself when they are born. And whereas thou seest him with his eyes lift up to Heaven, the best of Books in his hand, and the Law of Truth writ on his lips, it is to shew thee that his work is to know and unfold dark things to sinners; even as also thou seest him stand as if he pleaded with men; and whereas thou seest the World as cast behind him, and that a Crown hangs over his head, that is to shew thee that slighting and despising the things that are present, for the love that he hath to his Master's service, he is sure in the world that comes next to have Glory for his reward.

Now, said the Interpreter, I have shewed thee this Picture first, because the Man whose Picture this is, is the only man whom the Lord of the place whither thou art going, hath authorized to be thy guide in all difficult places thou mayest with in the way; wherefore take good heed to what I have shewed thee, and bear well in thy mind what thou hast seen, lest in thy Journey thou meet with some that pretend to lead thee right, but their way goes down to death.