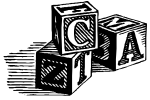


Acts 2:12 And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another,

"What Does This Mean?"

Response Questions for, "The Structure of the Local Church in the Mission of God – Part 2," (Acts 6:1-7; Acts 13:1-4; Acts 20:17, 18, 28; Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; 2 Tim. 2:2).



Basic Ideas concerning Structure.

The Holy Spirit is calling to us from this passage to consider three ideas.

1. The Holy Spirit desires for us to know how He is working in and through the Elders and Deacons of local churches.
2. The Holy Spirit desires for us to choose to embrace the biblical structure for local churches.
3. The Holy Spirit desires for us to feel the joy of seeing the work of God unfold in and through His church.



Basic Questions concerning Structure.

Acts 6:1-7; Acts 11:27-30; Acts 13:1-3; Acts 14:19-23; Acts 15:1-6; Acts 20:17-38

1. Is the Acts narrative normative for today as it relates to local church leadership?
2. Is there a progression in the development of local church leadership seen in Acts?
3. What is the function of assembly leaders? What functions do we see played out in the book of Acts? Does this create priority for the leadership in function?
4. Are the words elder, pastor, overseer, and shepherd describing one office?

Ephesians 4:7-16

1. Are there four or five offices noted? What is the function of the offices noted? Does the word define the function? How do we know they are offices and not simply gifting? Do these offices/functions still exist? Are they normative for today?
2. What does this look like in a local church? What would be their modern day equivalence?
3. How does each of their functions equip the saints? What is the interplay between what we see in Matthew 28:16-20 and Ephesians 4:11ff?
4. What is the purpose of this equipping?
5. What is the primary function of the gifting?
6. How do we evaluate church growth? What are the character traits of a mature church?
7. Is there a Pauline pattern in the planting of local churches and what is the relationship of this pattern to local church Elders?
8. What would a biblically functioning Elder team look like in our fellowship?
9. What changes have to take place with our current structure for it to fit the biblical ideal?
10. Compare our present structure to what we have just discussed.
11. Where is conformity required and differences permissible?

1 Timothy 3:1-7, 8-13; Titus 1:5-9, 1 Timothy 5:17-22

1. What are the traits of Elders? What traits do you believe we should discuss further?
2. Can the traits be categorized (i.e. character versus function)?
3. How does a newly established church avoid "the new convert" qualifier for its leadership?

Continued on the other side...

4. Of all the passages cited, this is the first passage that considers the idea of Deacon outright. What is the relationship between the Elders and the Deacons? Is provision made for female Deacons (i.e. Deaconesses)? What does this do to male headship?
5. Why is there so little said about Deacons?
6. Is there a different standard for Deacons than Elders?
7. What are the differences and similarities between Timothy and Titus in the listing of the traits for an Elder? What might this suggest about the lists?
8. When looking at the office of Elder in 1 Timothy 5, what is the overall tone set?
9. What would a biblically functioning Elder and Deacon team look like in our fellowship?
10. What changes have to take place with our current structure for it to fit the biblical ideal?
11. Compare our present structure to what we have just discussed. Where is conformity required and differences permissible?
12. What are the character and functional traits of Elders and Deacons in the New Testament? Compare and contrast what we currently see at WBC with this, and where do we go from here?

1 Peter 5:1-5

1. What is a function of an Elder? What are the dangers to shepherding? How are Elders to view themselves?
2. Is there a distinction between the Elder in verses 1-4 and that of verse 5?



Basic Application concerning Structure.

1. Elders, are we biblically qualified?
2. Deacons, are we biblically qualified?
3. Congregant, are you gladly following the lead of your Elders and Deacons?
4. Be careful who you put in the position of Elder because you have a responsibility toward them.
5. Be careful of wanting to be an Elder because you have a responsibility for the sheep.
6. Be careful who you put in the position of Deacon/Deaconess because you have a responsibility toward them.
7. Be careful of wanting to be a Deacon/Deaconess because you have a responsibility for the sheep.

Waukesha Bible Church is a family of families seeking to live in **the Storyline of the Bible**. She is determined by design to have a **God-centered, Christ-exalting worship**; a **Word-centered teaching** focused on personal **discipleship** through intentional and systematic instruction; a **Global-impacting mission** that resolves to be a **church planting church**; and a **Grace-based fellowship** where disciples are invited to live under a **reigning grace** characterized by a **Gospel-driven sanctification** that celebrates a divine **monergism** to the Christian life.