

HHBC



# I Peter 5: 1-4

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The Responsibilities of  
ELDERS

*(to the local church)*

I & II Peter 9 AM Study – Holly Hills Bible Church:

# I Peter 5: 1-4

1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

**Today Will Be primarily TOPICAL STUDY on Elders:  
*the Role of Elders in the church*  
topically; then we will look Vs. 1-4 specifically**

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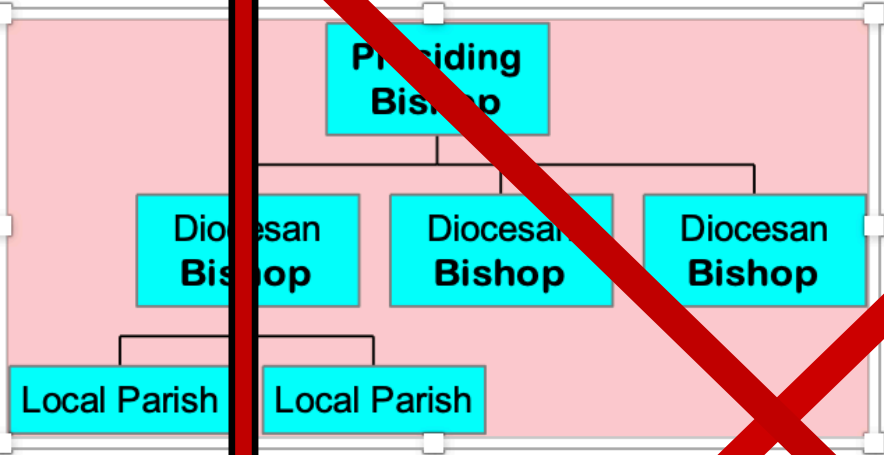
# THE CHURCH: HER ORGANIZATION & ORDINANCES



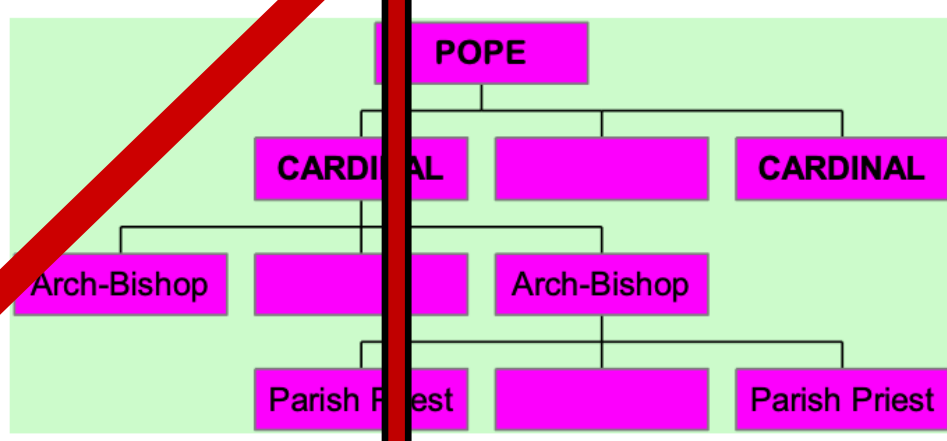
## TYPICAL CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

IS THE CHURCH  
 • AN ORGANIZATION OR  
 • AN ORGANISM?

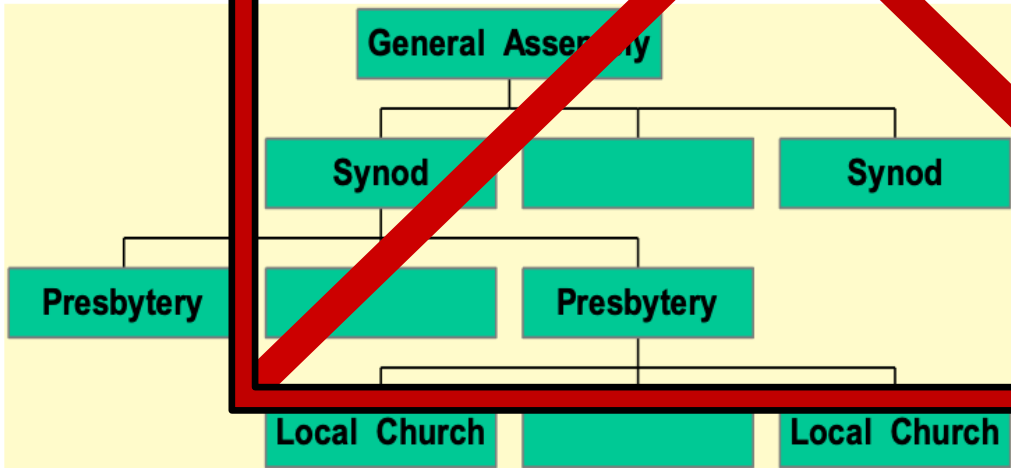
### • EPISCOPALIAN



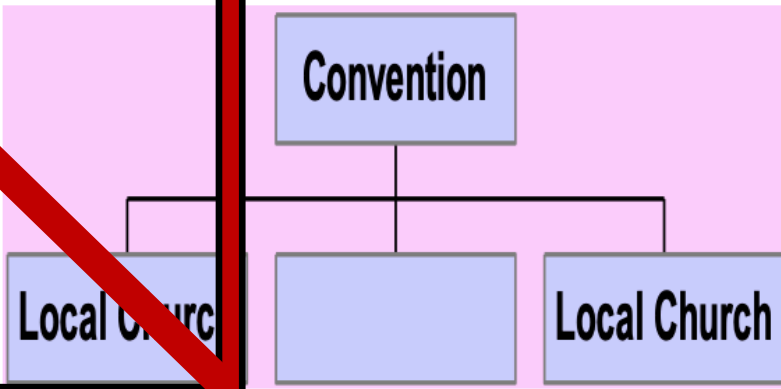
### • ROMAN CATHOLIC



### • REPRESENTATIVE FORM (e.g Presbyterian)



### • CONGREGATIONAL FORM



( e.g Baptists, Church Of Christ )

## Is the Church an Organization?

- Survey says???! **No**
- Biblical View of the structure of the Church: it is not an organization
- No Organizational Charts
- Not a Hierarchy
- No 'Running it up the Chain' of command



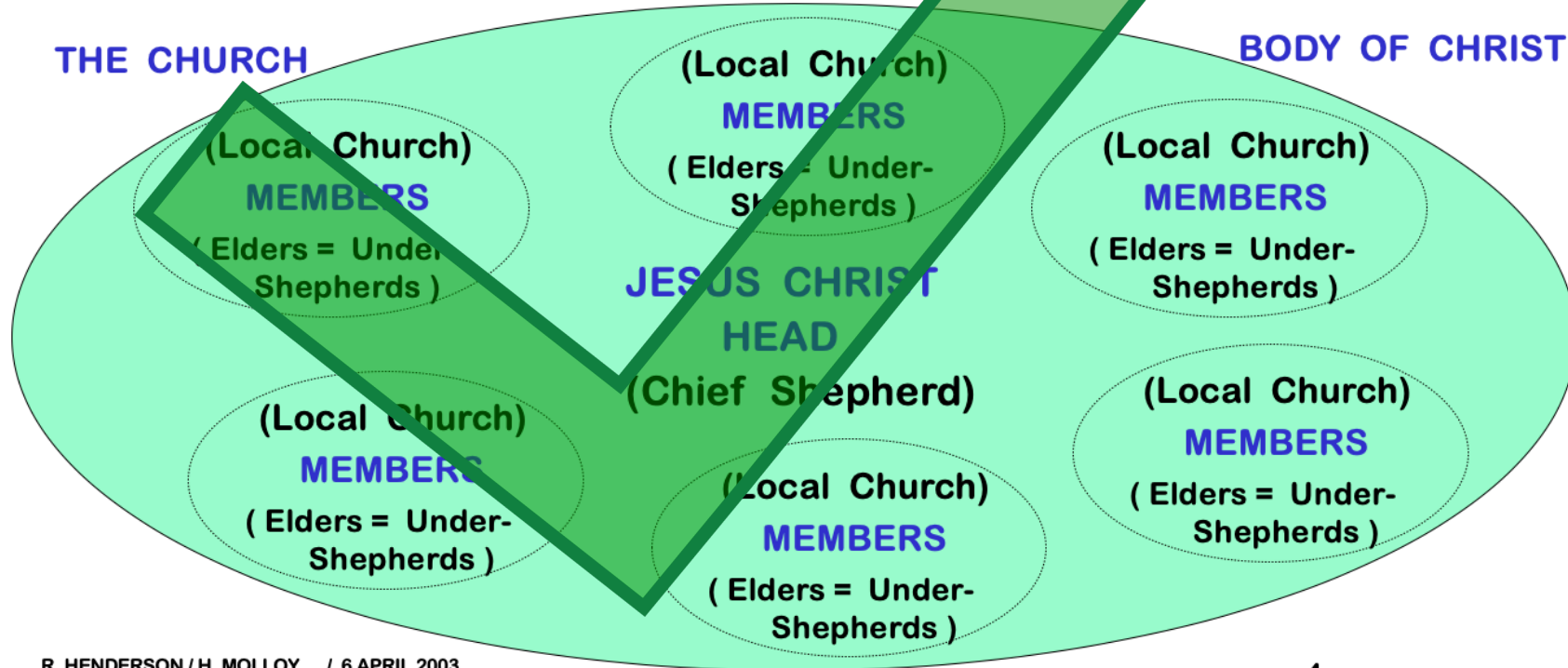
# MAJOR BIBLE THEMES

## THE CHURCH: HER ORGANIZATION & ORDINANCES

### THE CHURCH AS AN ORGANISM

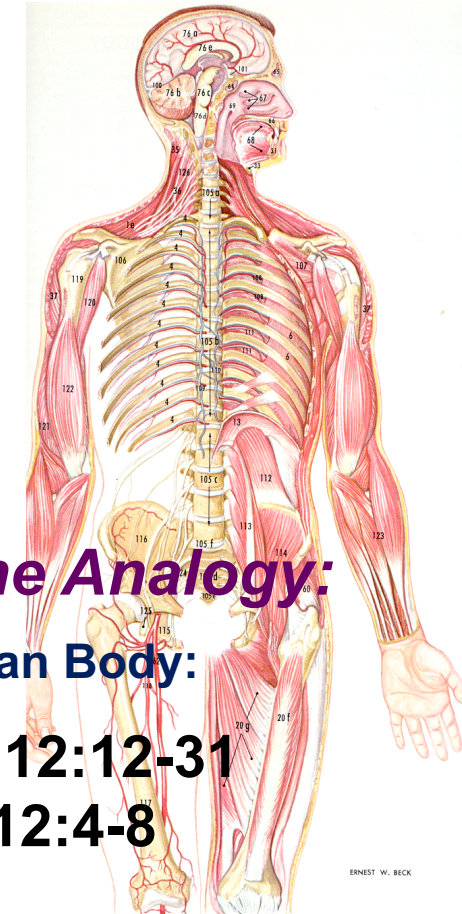
IS THE CHURCH  
• AN ORGANIZATION OR  
• AN ORGANISM ?

- THE BIBLICAL MODEL VIEWS THE CHURCH AS AN ORGANISM
  - The church (“called out ones”) is the body of Christ - Rom 12:5; Eph 2:16
    - Every believer is a member of Christ’s body - 1 Cor 12:27
    - Jesus Christ is the head of the body - Eph 1:22; 5:23
  - Each local church is a microcosm of the body of Christ



### IT IS AN LIVING ORGANISM:

- Yes: Check Mark



### OR / the Analogy: Of a Human Body:

- I Cor. 12:12-31
- Rom 12:4-8





# I Peter 5:1-4

## There are only 2 “Offices” Described in the Organization of the Body/Church:

- ☐ **ELDERS** (sometimes referred to as ‘*Bishops*’ or ‘*Overseers*’)
- ☐ **& DEACONS**
- ☐ **Elder:** is ***presbyteros***: may be used simply as an adjective to mean just one who is older in age or older or more mature spiritually. It may also be used substantively (in place of a noun) to mean an older person, ancestor, elder, or presbyter. The Hebrew word **zaqen** is similar in meaning to the Greek presbuteros. It also has a two-fold meaning of age or title (maturity). *[PATRICK J. BRENNAN-REDISCOVERING THE PAST: BIBLICAL ELDERSHIP IN LIGHT OF SCRIPTURE AND HISTORY]*
- ☐ **Deacon:** is ***diakonos***: one who serves, executes the commands of another: The first appearance of the role of deacon in the church is in Acts 6:1-7. The apostles, who were at that time acting in the role of elder in the church in Jerusalem (Peter even calls himself a “fellow elder” in 1 Peter 5:1), were trying to deal with a problem in serving food to the widows in Jerusalem. They asked for spiritually qualified men to “serve tables” (Acts 6:2). The word translated “serve” is from the Greek word ***diakoneo*** – the verb form of ***diakonos***. Critical in this passage is that these who were chosen to serve were appointed to do so because, as the apostles put it in Acts 6:2, “It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. And in Acts 6:4, the apostles say, “But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

*[HHBC– POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL ELDERS, DEACONS & THE CHURCH BOARD; PETERMAN/ MOLLOY/ HENDERSON/ DOYLE; JULY 2015]*



# I Peter 5:1-4

**There are only 2 “Offices” Described in the Organization of the Body/Church:**

**at Holly Hills Bible Church the functions are:**

## ELDERS

Equipping

Teaching

Overseeing

Shepherding

## DEACONS

Facilities

Finances

Benevolence

Operations

*[HHBC– POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL ELDERS, DEACONS & THE CHURCH BOARD; PETERMAN/  
MOLLOY/ HENDERSON/ DOYLE; JULY 2015]*



# I Peter 5:1-4

## The Qualifications of an Elder:

[HHBC– POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL ELDERS, DEACONS & THE CHURCH BOARD; PETERMAN/ MOLLOY/ HENDERSON/ DOYLE; 2015]

### From: 1 Timothy 3:1-7

- (1) Temperate
- 2) Gentle
- 3) Able to manage household
- 4) Not a new convert
- 5) Well thought of by outsiders

### From: 1 Peter 5:1-4

- 1) **Serves willingly, not under compulsion**
- 2) **According to God (in some Greek texts)**
- 3) **Not for shameful gain**
- 4) **Not lording it over the flock**
- 5) **As an example**
- 6) **As accountable to the Chief Shepherd**

### From: Titus 1:5-9

- 1) Above reproach
- 2) Husband of one wife (a one-woman man)
- 3) Having believing children
- 4) Not self-willed
- 5) Not quick-tempered
- 6) Not addicted to wine
- 7) Not pugnacious (a bruiser, ready for a fight)
- 8) Not a money-lover
- 9) Hospitable
- 10) Lover of good
- 11) Sensible
- 12) Just
- 13) Devout
- 14) Self-controlled
- 15) Holding fast the Word
- 16) Able to teach sound doctrine
- 17) Able to refute objections

### Acts 20:17-38 (A.M. addition)

- 1) Serves the Lord with all humility
- 2) Serves the Lord through trials, tears
- 3) Does not shrink away in declaring profitable things of God
- 4) Teaches publicly
- 5) Declares the WHOLE purpose of God
- 6) Is on alert for wolves & perverse doctrines
- 7) Does not covet riches
- 8) Works hard to meet own's need
- 9) Works hard at the ministry of shepherding
- 10) Helps the weak
- 11) Gives over receives



# I Peter 5:1-4

## THE FUNCTIONS OF AN ELDER:

[HHBC– POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL ELDERS, DEACONS & THE CHURCH BOARD;  
PETERMAN/ MOLLOY/ HENDERSON/ DOYLE; 2015]

<b>English:</b>	<b>ELDER</b>	<b>OVERSEER (n)</b>	<b>SHEPHERD (n)</b>	<b>SHEPHERD (vb)</b>
<b>Greek:</b>	<u>πρεσβύτερος</u>	<u>ἐπίσκοπος</u>	<u>ποιμήν</u> “ <u>pastor</u> ” in Eph 4:11	<u>ποιμαίνω</u>
<b>Transliteration:</b>	<u>presbyteros</u>	<u>episkopos</u>	<u>poimēn</u>	<u>poimainō</u>
	<b>Acts 20:17</b>	<b>Acts 20:28</b>		<b>Acts 20:28</b>
			<b>Eph 4:11</b>	
		<b>I Tim 3:1,2</b>		
	<b>I Tim 5:17, 19</b>			
	<b>Titus 1:5</b>	<b>Titus 1:7</b>		
	<b>I Pet 5:1</b>	<b>I Pet 5:2 (vb)</b>		<b>I Pet 5:2</b>

**MAIN TAKEAWAY FROM THIS CHART:** Elders do 2 things: they *Shepherd* & *Oversee*





# I Peter 5:1-4

## THE FUNCTIONS OF AN ELDER:

- ❑ **Shepherd *poimainō*** the flock (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2), which will entail (speaking figuratively) protecting, guiding, leading, seeking out pastures and waters, selecting paths, correcting the path of some, rescuing, mending wounds and illnesses, etc. This will involve teaching, counseling, correction, consolation, training, spiritual discernment, and the like. I Peter 5:4 makes clear that this shepherding role of the elders is one of “undershepherd”, since Christ is the Chief Shepherd *archi-poimēn*.
- ❑ Be an **overseer *episkopeō*** (Acts 20:28; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1,2; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:2), which will involve overlooking the character and condition of the church, taking both proactive and responsive measures to keep the church under his care in such a way as to produce a spiritually healthy and growing “flock”.
- ❑ **Be on guard** (and alert) for themselves and for the flock (Acts 20:28, 31)
- ❑ **Be ready** to take on the spiritual “wolves” who will attack the flock (Acts 20:29, 30)
- ❑ **Teach, *didaskō*** standing on and being able to discern and convey sound doctrine (Ephesians 4:11; 1 Timothy 3:2; 5:17; Titus 1:9).
- ❑ **Refute** doctrine that conflicts with “the faith” (Titus 1:9).
- ❑ Rule (lead, **superintend**, preside over) well (1 Timothy 5:17)
- ❑ **Work hard** (Acts 20:35)
- ❑ **Help the weak** (Acts 20:35) [HHBC– POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL ELDERS, DEACONS & THE CHURCH BOARD; PETERMAN/ MOLLOY/ HENDERSON/ DOYLE; JULY 2015]



# I Peter 5:1-4

## Importance of Christ & His Ministry of Shepherding:

Three aspects of our Lord as the Shepherd:

The Good Shepherd - He tenderly cares for us. Psalm 23; John 10:11; I Peter 2:25

The Great Shepherd - He died for us. Psalm 22; Micah 5:4; Hebrews 13:20; Isaiah 53

The Chief Shepherd - He is coming again to reward and reign. Ps 24; 1 Peter 5:4; Rev. 7:17; Rev. 22:12

[ADAPTED FROM HHBC 1 & 2 PETER STUDY - 23 1 PET 5:1-4 . B. MATSON/ V. PETERMAN/ G. FUQUA; 3.11.07]

### Main Scriptures:

“I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters *them*. *He flees* because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

JOHN 10

The LORD is my shepherd,  
I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside quiet waters.  
He restores my soul;  
He guides me in the paths of righteousness  
For His name's sake. PSA 23

For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd (*poimēn*) and Guardian (*episkopos*) of your souls. I Pet 2:25

And He will arise and shepherd His flock  
In the strength of the LORD,  
In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God.  
And they will remain,  
Because at that time He will be great  
To the ends of the earth. MICAH 5:4

# John 21:15-17

15: So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “***Tend My lambs.***” . . . 16: “***Shepherd my sheep***” . . . 17: “***Tend my sheep***”

## The 3 Times Repeated Present Active Imperatives from the Chief Shepherd Himself:

- Vs 15: *tend* = *boskō* - feed, *pasture*, *fodder*, *keep*
- Vs 17: *shepherd* = ***poimainō*** – feed - plus: rule, *govern*, nourish
- Vs 17: *tend*, *boskō* repeated
  
- Note: to whom Jesus was speaking to!**

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# I Peter 5: 1-4

1 Therefore, I exhort the elders (*presbyteros*) among you, as *your* fellow elder (*sym-presbyteros; together with*) and witness (*Peter could testify to this in court*) of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, (*John 17:24*) 2 shepherd (*poimainō*) the flock (*poimnion*) of God among you, exercising oversight (*episkopeō*) not under compulsion (*forced, constained*), but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain (*not a money lover, Titus 5:9/ does not covet riches Acts 20*), but with eagerness; (*cheerful readiness*), 3 nor yet as lording it over (*downward lordship*) those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples (*a type; conformity to a pattern*) to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears (*in glory; I Thes. 4:17; & 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming: Isa 40*), you will receive (*I Cor 3:12-15; bema judgment*) the unfading crown of glory (*accountable to the Chief; e.g. parable of the minas Luke 19; Elder's Crown*).

Isa 40: Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: **And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed**, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

John 17:24: “Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

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## The Elder's Crown for Faithful Service:

*Rewards & Crowns revealed to Paul, Peter, James & John and thereby made known to us*

### Five Crowns\*:

- Victor's Crown: 1 Corinthians 9:25
- Church Founder's Crown: 1 Thess. 2:19,20
- Rapture Lover's Crown: 2 Timothy 4:8
- **Elder's Crown for Service: 1 Peter 5:2-4**
- Trial Crown: James 1:12; Rev. 2:10

\**stefanos* = victor's crown in athletic competition

### & Three Rewards:

- Solid Foundation Reward: 1 Cor 3:14
- Voluntary Service Reward: 1 Cor. 9:17
- Inheritance Reward: Col. 3:23,24

ADAPTED FROM: 'BIBLICAL CROWNS & REWARDS, HHBC, V. PETERMAN



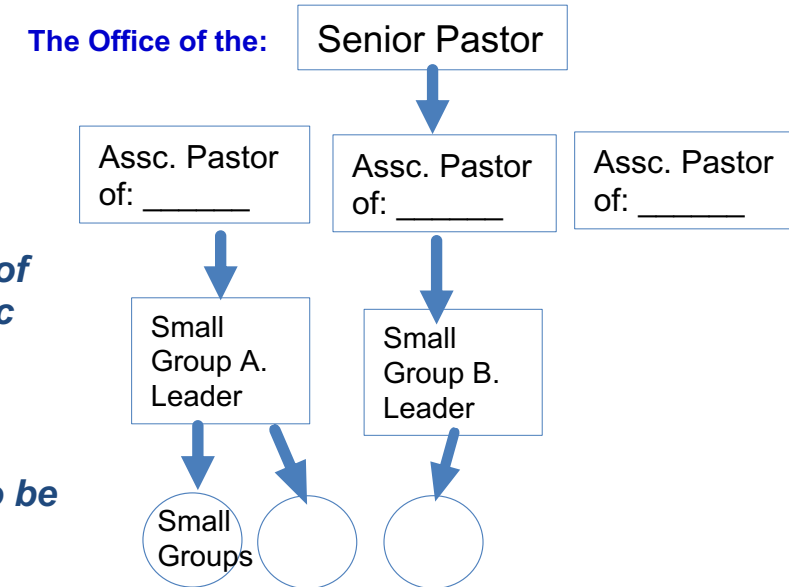




# I Peter 5:1-4

## *Final (Deep) Thoughts . . .*

*Patrick J. Brennan: "I believe the emergence of a monarchical system of leadership in our churches today was due to a straying from apostolic teachings and has been accepted without investigation. I think the scriptures are clear and that Biblical principles clearly show that this model is in opposition to what God intended for His church. Just as Israel was not intended to be ruled by a king, Christ's church is not to be ruled by a pastor."*



- Do you agree with Brennan’s assessment?
- It seems to be true that evangelical churches are organized as above . . . And have a Leadership Council at the top
- Brennan states that things started to change in John’s time:  
 "I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, neither does he himself receive the brethren, and he forbids those who desire to do so and puts them out of the church. Beloved, **do not imitate** what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God." 3 John 1:9-11
- Moreover, Ignatius (50-110 A.D.) first stated that a new class of “Bishops” were to supervise Elders, and started the hierarchical system that abides to this day.