

JUNE 25, 2023

LIVING STONES

POLITY: WHAT IS IT AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

1 PETER 5:1-4

What does God's word prescribe for how a church is governed?

1) Jesus Christ is the head of the church.

Colossians 1:18 ... "And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent."

2) The Bible is our chief authority.

3) The congregation is active in governing the church

4) Pastors are church officers who lead the church to follow Christ.

a) The term elder, pastor, and overseer are used synonymously in the New Testament.

b) The character of a pastor is more important than the skills of a pastor.

5) Deacons are church officers who serve the church.

Questions to Consider

- 1) Why is the way a church government structured important? (Think of examples of how poor church government has caused problems.)
- 2) What are key elements of the biblical model for church governance?
- Acts 20:17-38, 1 Timothy 3:1-10, 5:17-25, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-5
- 3) Why is character more important than skill for a elder/pastor of a church?
- 4) In what ways do we often emphasize the skills of Pastors more than the character of pastors?

Memory Verse for May-June

“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:38-39

From the Resources

“For many people, the issue of church government ... is as irrelevant an issue as the color of church pews. Indeed, for many people the color of the church pews inspires greater interest! ... however, Church government is an extremely practical and theologically significant issue.”

- Alexander Strauch
Biblical Eldership: An Urgent Call to Restore Biblical Church Leadership. (Pg. 101)