



Doctrine—The Church—part 2
From sermon 1.5.20

Read 1 Peter 2:5

Questions, Answers, and Review from Sunday’s sermon: The Bible gives a couple word-pictures/illustrations of the Church: that of a body and that of house. In the house analogy, believes are a part of the house, not in the house. There are many vital parts to this living building—each important and required. Every believer should find membership in a local church (community, commitment, & accountability) and use his or her spiritual gift in ministry.

What were the four categories of house construction used on Sunday and what does each mean?

1. Foundation: Jesus Christ and the Word of God. See *1 Corinthians 3:11 & Ephesians 2:20*
2. Frame(work): Biblical Church Leadership/Government. See *Ephesians 4:11-12*
3. Furnishings/facilities: Deacons & Member Ministers. See *Ephesians 2:19-22*
4. Façade: what the outside world sees, observes, and experiences in the Church.

Discussing the Frame (#2), someone read *Acts 20:17 & 28* printed here:

He [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church...He said to them...,"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."

Besides obviously being the same persons/office, what other two truths about local church government was pointed out on Sunday? Always a plurality (more than one) and male.

God the Holy Spirit has Paul use three terms for Church leaders. State the title, review original the Greek word, identify the English use in church government, & cite an example where used.

<u>Leadership Title</u>	<u>Greek</u>	<u>English Use</u>	<u>Example</u>
Elder	presbyteros	Presbyterian	Presbyterian & Reformed Churches
Overseer	episkopos	Episcopal	Roman Catholic, Anglican, Episcopalian
Shepherd	poiman	Pastor	Baptist, various other denominations

[Note: some churches use congregational rule with a pastor/elder/teacher = Congregationalists. What are the problems with such a structure? Also discuss committees and sub-committees. Great wisdom in taking input from the diversity of the Church, but democracy, voting, and majority rule are not in the Scriptures. The Church is to be led by a plurality of qualified male elders. Committees are helpful, but the final decision is to rest with the Elders (or delegated by the elders)]

What is New Heights’ leadership structure? Plurality of elders. No denominational oversight.

Why do you think the current trend is to avoid church membership? Various personal answers

How is a healthy church attractive to outsiders (some) and yet uncompromising in Truth? People seek community and belonging. The church must preach, teach, and live the Word of God. if that offends, so be it. But, in our conduct, attitude, and compassion, we must be gracious.

See *Colossians 4:3-6*