

**LESSON #11**  
**"WHAT IS THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH"**

**TEXTS: Acts 20:28; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9**

The government is one of man's oldest and most important institutions. From the earliest of times, some kind of government has been a vital part of every society. When we think of government we generally mean the government of a small town, county, city, state or nation. But just as important are the governments of a school, social club, baseball team, a Corporation, labor union, a family and, yes, even the church.

I. Matthew 21:23-25

- a. Only two sources of authority, from heaven or man.

II. I Corinthians 14:33

- a. God is not the author of confusion, but of peace.
- b. The confusion in the religious world is not from God.

III. Organization is essential.

- a. The universe is organized to perfection.
- b. Successful businesses stress organization.
- c. The Lord's church has a divine pattern of organization.

IV. The Lord is the head of the Church.

- a. By right of purchase - **Acts 20:28**.
- b. By right of appointment - **Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22, 23**.

V. The Lord has not delegated other authority outside the framework of the local Congregation, but called each congregation to be ruled by elders and served by deacons.

- a. The immediate oversight of the local congregation is in the hands of men called **Bishops (I Timothy 3:1), Elders (Acts 20:17), Pastors (Ephesians 4:11), Presbyters (I Timothy 4:14), and Overseers (Acts 20:28)**.

- b. Understanding these names will give us much help in understanding the work and qualifications of elders. They assume oversight by qualification and appointment.

VI. Deacons are, as their name indicates, servants; but all Christians are servants (**Romans 12:1**). Deacons are to be special servants under, as is the entire congregation, the oversight of the elders.

- a. **Acts 6**
- b. There is no special area that they must serve, but in any capacity appointed by the elders.

VII. A church can exist without elders and deacons but this should be temporary, until men meet the qualifications set forth for Lord.

# New Testament Pattern Of Church Government

Chart Lesson 11

Christ is the Head  
Col. 1:18

Elder  
Elder  
Elder

Elder  
*Elder*

Elder  
Elder  
*Elder*  
Elder

Elder  
*Elder*  
Elder

Elder  
*Elder*  
Elder  
Elder

Elder  
*Elder*

(Acts 20:29 ) For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.  
(Acts 20:30 ) Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.