

## Getting Office Right

## Belgic Confession, Article 31

1. THE MEANING OF OFFICE: Special offices in the church are closely related to the office of \_\_\_\_\_, shared by all Christians.
  - a. Having an “office” means having a \_\_\_\_\_ from God to serve within the community in a particular way.

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-12).
  - b. The big picture of office: Adam → Israel → \_\_\_\_\_ → Church
  - c. Office is a matter of being given a particular \_\_\_\_\_, not having mystical spiritual powers.
  
2. THE SOURCE OF OFFICE: Office is a \_\_\_\_\_ calling from the Lord.

Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. (Acts 6:3)

  - a. A calling to serve in office should be \_\_\_\_\_ with humility.
  - b. A calling to serve in office should be \_\_\_\_\_ with submission.
  
3. THE NATURE OF OFFICE: Offices in the church are ministerial: administering in a special way what God has already said and done, insofar as they are \_\_\_\_\_ to his Word.

...shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. (1 Peter 5:2-4)
  
4. THE ESTEEM OF OFFICE: Offices in the church should be \_\_\_\_\_ “because of the work they do”.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. (Hebrews 13:17)

  - a. This is \_\_\_\_\_ respect.
  - b. This is \_\_\_\_\_ respect.
  - c. Christ alone is the “chief Shepherd,” and that is \_\_\_\_\_.