

## What is Biblical Church Government? Lesson 4 – Shared Leadership – Part 2

### Introduction:

- Elders are to \_\_\_\_\_ the responsibilities and duties of church leadership.
- 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Elders who share leadership with one another.
  - A. Having multiple Elders \_\_\_\_\_ the weaknesses of individual Elders.
    - No individual Elder has \_\_\_\_\_ the gifts, skills, and wisdom that are needed to effectively lead a church.
    - Multiple Elders can help one another to \_\_\_\_\_ their own weaknesses.
    - Multiple Elders can compensate for each other’s weaknesses by using their various \_\_\_\_\_.

***Matt 7.3-4** Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye?*

***Matt 7.5** You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.*

- If we do not acknowledge our weaknesses, inabilities, and limitations, then:
  - Our hearts can \_\_\_\_\_ us,
  - Our discernment can be \_\_\_\_\_,
  - We can \_\_\_\_\_ the members of the church.

B. Having multiple Elders make the \_\_\_\_\_ lighter and easier to bear.

- When the workload is shared among multiple Elders, they are able bear the \_\_\_\_\_ with greater ease.

***Exod 18.17–18** Moses’ father-in-law said to him, “What you are doing is not good. 18 You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone.*

- The work of a Pastor, when done correctly, can be absolutely \_\_\_\_\_.

- The work of a Pastor can easily become \_\_\_\_\_ because they are often so exhausted from the work of the ministry.

**Num 11.11** Moses said to the LORD, “Why have you dealt ill with your servant? And why have I not found favor in your sight, **that you lay the burden of all this people on me?**

**Num 11.14** I am not able to carry all this people alone; **the burden is too heavy for me.**

**Num 11.16** Then the LORD said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy men of the Elders of Israel, whom you know to be the Elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, **and let them take their stand there with you.**

**Num 11.17** And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, **and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone.**

**Eccl 4.11-12** Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? 12 And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

C. Having multiple Elders provides loving \_\_\_\_\_ for each of the Elders.

- Not only do church members need oversight and protection from sin and false teaching, but so do the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Every church leader needs other church leaders to help them guard against their \_\_\_\_\_ sins!
- Having multiple Elders safeguards the Elders from falling into the temptation to \_\_\_\_\_ their authority and power.

**Phil 2.2-3** Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves 3 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

**1 Pet 5.2-3** 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; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

**Acts 20.28** Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

- Accountability among multiple Elders promotes strong, \_\_\_\_\_ relationships among the Elders, which increases joy and strength for the work of the ministry.

*Prov 27.17 Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.*

- When leadership is shared, it decreases the harm to the church when one leader is \_\_\_\_\_ or failing do the work of the ministry.

*Ecccl 4.9-10 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. **But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!***

- There are some tasks of ministry that are much more difficult to do \_\_\_\_\_.

*Mark 6.7 And he called the twelve and began to **send them out two by two**, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.*

## 2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Elders who share leadership with one another.

- Anytime a group of \_\_\_\_\_ get together, there will certainly be problems!

### A. Frustrations can occur because shared leadership generally tends to operate more \_\_\_\_\_.

- Since making decisions is slower among shared leadership, it requires:
  - Practicing greater \_\_\_\_\_, since leaders are working with others who may have different opinions and personality types.
  - Practicing greater \_\_\_\_\_ to discern what the Lord would have them to do.
  - Seeking greater \_\_\_\_\_ from the Lord so that they would have one mind and one heart before the Lord.
  - Practicing greater \_\_\_\_\_ rather than making selfish or impulsive decisions.
  - Exhibiting greater \_\_\_\_\_.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ the wisdom and judgment of others in leadership.
  - Having genuine \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for others in leadership.

B. Shared leadership can also be ineffective and even harmful if the leaders are not well \_\_\_\_\_.

- Leaders working together must practice good \_\_\_\_\_ skills.
- Leaders working together must practice good \_\_\_\_\_ skills.
- Leaders working together must clearly divide up their \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Having multiple Elders does not eliminate the \_\_\_\_\_ of the congregation with the Elders in making some decisions.

A. Church members have the responsibility to \_\_\_\_\_ unrepentant church members by expelling them from the church.

***Matt 18.17*** *If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.*

***1 Cor 5.12-13*** *For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? 13 God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you."*

B. Church members have the responsibility to \_\_\_\_\_ church officers.

***Acts 6.3*** *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 6.5*** *And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.*

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of the entire church is needed in order to:
  - Carefully \_\_\_\_\_ the character and ability of those who will lead.
  - Prayerfully \_\_\_\_\_ to church office those who will lead.

C. Church members have the responsibility to know about and agree to how church \_\_\_\_\_ are used.

- This does not mean that church members should decide on every church expense, but that the church should be in general \_\_\_\_\_ with how the leaders intend to use the money.

**Acts 4.34–35** *There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them **and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 and laid it at the apostles' feet**, and it was distributed to each as any had need.*

- **When church members give their offerings, they should be willing to \_\_\_\_\_ them to be used by the leaders for purposes that the church agrees to.**
- **There can be nothing \_\_\_\_\_ or hidden about the use of church money.**

**Conclusion:**

- **Even though there are some difficulties of having multiple Elders who share the leadership of the church, it is the way that God has ordained to bring great \_\_\_\_\_ to the church.**
- **God's pattern of shared leadership in the church does not eliminate the need for the participation of the \_\_\_\_\_ in some decisions.**