

"CHURCH LEADERSHIP"

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

A group that is going to progress, whether it is a team, lodge, club, business must have adequate leadership. The church of the Lord is no different. No church will rise above its leaders. I am convinced that churches having leaders who refuse to be trained will normally be a "hold up" to a congregation, rather than an asset.

There are some individuals within congregations who think that leadership is not important and refuse to be led. However, our Lord makes it plain that just as in the business world which is in need of good leaders, likewise the church is in need of good leadership.

God called Moses to lead Israel (Exodus 3). Then in Exodus 18 Moses' father-in-law instructed him to call others to serve as leaders.

In the New Testament Church - Christ appointed Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, and Elders to serve as leaders (Ephesians 4:11-16). However, today we do not have any apostles since no one meets the qualifications to be one (Acts 1:21,22), that being - to have been with Jesus since His baptism and to have been an eye witness of His resurrected body. Nor do we have any Prophets since Prophets were to cease according to Zechariah 13:2 & I Corinthians 13:8. However, we do still have Evangelists (Pulpit Ministers) and Elders (Bishops, Pastors) who are to serve as leaders in the church. Titus was left in Crete to correct problems and to ordain Elders (Titus 1:5). He was to rebuke with authority any one needing such, even Elders (I Timothy 5:19-21; Titus 2:15).

Elders and Evangelists are to be "Overseers" of the church.

Their ministries are very similar. They are both commissioned to:

a) Equip the saints b) guard the flock c) be alert for false teachers d) be an example (See: Acts 20; Ephesians 4; I Timothy 3,4,5; Titus 1; I Peter 5; Also - please note that the terms "Minister" and "Evangelist" are interchangeable; see I Timothy 4:6 and II Timothy 4:5. Likewise the terms "Elders, Bishops, and Pastors are interchangeable; see Acts 11:30; 20:17,28; Ephesians 4:11; I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:1-9)

KYOWVA Evangelistic Association

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