



Summer Selection Series  
God's Plan for Church Leadership  
From Sermon 8.10.25

Read *Acts 20:17 & 28* and *Ephesians 4:11-12*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Once the Church starts down the road of compromise regarding Scripture, inevitably all other foundations will crumble. This is clearly being seen in the contemporary church's belief and practice regarding leadership. Now days, anyone and everyone takes the title of pastor and church government looks more like a business model than the biblical standard. Even most mainstream denominations impose American governmental ideals into church structure and workings.

1. What types of church leadership structure have you been under in your life? Various answers. Most of us: single pastor lead, usually with some associate pastors (worship, youth), boards and committees for oversight and projects. Have you ever served in a leadership capacity? Various personal answers.

2. What three terms are used for the primary church leaders in the Acts 20 passage from above?

<u>English Translation:</u>	<u>Greek Word:</u>	<u>From which we get:</u>
<u>Elders</u>	<i>Presbyteros</i>	<u>Presbyterian</u>
<u>Overseers</u> (also bishops)	<i>Episkopos</i>	<u>Episcopalian</u>
<u>Shepherds</u>	<i>Poimeen</i>	<u>Pastor</u>

2a. Traditionally, how have most denominations structured their leadership? One or the other. Some have lead/senior pastor with an elder board. Others are ruled from a central location (Rome—Catholicism, Canterbury—Anglican/Episcopalian.). Others have elders that share all aspects.

2b. Based on the Acts passage alone, what does the Bible say about the Elder/Overseer/Shepherd? They are the same person/same office. Although the roles and ministries of those men in the local church may vary. See also *1 Peter 5:1-4* & *1 Timothy 5:17*

3. Discuss the biblical instructions for a "Plurality" of Elders. It just means "more than one". Every instance (beyond qualifications) of citing elders in the New Testament is more than one. See *Titus 1:5*

4. Discuss: The American church implemented democracy, voting, checks and balances, committees, & congregationalism. What's the problem with that structure? None of those are found in Scripture.

5. Why then does a church New Heights also have corporate officers (president, CFO, secretary)? To abide by the State and Federal laws and protections regarding non-profit organizations. The officers have no ecclesiastical authority but manage the corporate aspects of church. See *Romans 13:1-2*

6. What is the purpose of the office of deacon? Ministry leaders.

6a. Why does New Heights believe we can and should have female deacons (deaconesses)? Scriptural example and given qualifications. See also *Romans 16:1-2* & *1 Timothy 3:11*

7. While the Bible has clear definitions, qualifications, and responsibilities for elders, what is the responsibility of the congregation/members? To obey, support, help, and respect the leaders. See *Hebrews 13:17*