

Letter 921

A Matter of Understanding True Church Authority
("That The Word of God May Not Be Blasphemed")
2023-09-19

Dear **Yeshua**,

Sunday, 25 June 2023, 9:04AM

As of this writing, I am attending services and developing relationships at two different Churches. My presence at both Churches is a direct result of being led by the [Lord Holy Spirit](#). Of the two churches, one would be considered Charismatic/Fundamentalist, and the other Pentecostal/Fundamentalist. Both are Evangelical.

This Letter is a result of my observing how these two different Church streams understand and teach the doctrine that pertains to the Authority of Men and Women in the Church.

They say a picture paints a thousand words. Please permit me to offer a few pictures of how I understand True Church Authority is structured according to Scripture, and the True Church Government which this authority establishes:

Church Authority,
Church Government-01,
Church Government-02,
Church Government-03 (slideshow).

After years of witnessing and studying Church structure, I have yet to find any that follow without deviation the model laid out in the New Testament.

This observation is of course within the limits of my own experience. It could very well be that some churches exist that do follow the Biblical model. But so far, I personally have not seen any.

As an example, both of the churches I mentioned above seem to equate the role of pastor to that of elder (also called bishop).

The Charismatic Church does seem to be more closely aligned with Scripture, in that women are not permitted to have authority over men. But because the distinction between pastor and elder is not clear, women are not permitted to be pastors.

The Pentecostal Church has several women in pastoral roles. But since the offices of both pastor and elder seem to be conflated, the women are in authority over men.

According to how I read Scripture, women can be pastors, but not elders. But this only works if the office of elder (bishop) is held separate from that of pastor.

It is important to remember that the Office of Bishop (or elder) is an appointed office, with specific qualifications spelled out in great detail in the text (see Acts 14:23, 1 Timothy 3:1-13). One of those qualifications is the requirement to "... be the husband of one wife...".

But the position of Pastor is one that is a gift from **Jesus**, and part of the five perfecting gifts. There is no gender qualification for any of these five gifts (see Ephesians 4:11-16).

Somehow in Church History, the Office of Bishop and the Gift of Pastor became confused and conflated with one another.

But perhaps the Josiah Generation (see Letters 89, 368) will read, without the contamination of church tradition, the Whole Council of God found in Scripture, and bring obedience thereto back to the Body of Christ.

Time will tell.

Blessings...

R. C. Theophilus