

Polity 101—How MBC is Organized for Leadership: Biblical Eldership

(Modified from outline originally distributed 5/30/2010)

Text: Various (primarily Acts 20:17-31; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Tit. 1:5-9; 1 Pet. 5:1-4; Heb. 13:17; Mk. 10:42-45)

Introduction:

When we talk about how a local church is organized, we are talking about its polity. Why are we organized as we are? There are five basic patterns of church government, as follows:

1. **The Episcopalian system.**
2. **The Presbyterian system.**
3. **The Congregational system.**
4. **The “Non-government” system.**
5. **The Biblical Eldership system.** [What is followed at MBC.]

Body of Lesson:

Five terms are used to describe biblical eldership and taken together they paint a fairly complete picture of the distinctive leadership at MBC:

1. **Pastoral leadership.** (1 Pet. 5:1-4) [Primary focus of the message last week.]
 - a. **Protecting the flock.** (Acts 20:17, 28-31a; Titus 1:5, 6a, 9)
 - b. **Feeding the flock.** (John 21:15-17; 1 Tim. 3:2; 1 Pet. 5:2)
 - c. **Leading the flock.** (2 Sam. 5:2; Psa. 78:70-72)
 - d. **Helping to meet the flock’s many practical needs.** (Jam. 5:14; Acts 20:35)
2. **Shared leadership.**
3. **Male leadership.** (1 Tim. 2:8-3:7)
4. **Qualified leadership.** (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Pet. 5:2)
 - a. **Moral and spiritual character**
 - b. **Abilities**
 - c. **Spirit-given motivation for the task**
5. **Servant Leadership.** (Mark 10:42-45; John 13:1-17; 1 Pet. 5:3; cf. 3 John 9-10)

Application: