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## Study 5 – Rebellion

Unfortunately in the modern day church, there are a diverse range of “qualifications”, that men believe, *entitles* them to occupy an authority role within the church. These include: Graduating from a college or university with a degree in theological studies. Attending (but not necessary graduating) from a seminary or divinity school. Being a member of a church for a long time. Being friends with the current pastor or other senior figures. Having a lot of zeal. Tithing a lot of money. Assuming that being a novice doesn't matter. Or simply attending a church that has so few people, that they need someone to do the job.

However NONE of these are BIBLICAL prerequisites.

And if the Biblical parameters are not met. ALL of the above need to be seen for what they are! Rebellion, individually & collectively!

So let's go through them all:

### **1. Theological/Seminary background**

A theological degree or seminary education is only relevant if:

1. The institution correctly teaches what is written in the Bible
2. The graduate actually learns to follow what is written in the Bible.

Otherwise a degree is little more than a worthless piece of paper. And for the graduate, his time spent attending such an institute may just be 4+ years of his life that he can write off. But unfortunately what he has learned, and the debt that he has accrued along the way, will not be cast away so easily!

Yes, it is written,

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

Romans 8:28

But it is also written

Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, *ye are* God's building.

**According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth**

thereupon.

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are.

1 Corinthians 3:5-17

So when the fire comes to try your works, don't be surprised if your degree gets burned up and you have to go through the building process again. Only this time, let the Word of God be what educates you. Not men interpreting the Bible for you. And you will be able to look back upon your time at college/university as an example of how to lean the hard way! ie. How not to do it!

## 2. Long time church member.

Yes, being senior in the faith is an attribute that is required. But sitting on a church pew every Sunday for years, doesn't make you a senior in the faith. Especially if you are attending a lukewarm church that abandoned the teachings on the Bible a long time ago. You are likely just an old baby in chains. Old in the flesh. Still a baby in the faith. And doctrinally in bondage. Having your mind & heart polluted with heresies and your conscience seared with a hot iron.

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews 5:12-14

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

1 Timothy 4:1-2

## 3. Friends with a Pastor/Elder.

Yes, we should be approved by those that are already within leadership. But if those that are within leadership are not teaching what is in the Bible, how can you be friends with them? And why would you seek them for anything? Speaking the truth is what is required of a godly man. Not being nice!

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; **and avoid them.**

For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; **and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.**

Romans 16:17-18

For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness *is* an abomination to my lips.  
Proverbs 8:7

These *are* the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:  
Zecharia 8:16

Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.  
Ephesians 4:25

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men;

For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (**I speak the truth in Christ, *and* lie not;**) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

1 Timothy 1-7

#### **4. Zeal only**

Yes having a lot of zeal is good, but there has to be a lot more to a man than just zeal in order for him to occupy any of these positions.

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

**For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.**

**For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.**

For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Romans 10:1-4

Because if a man is ignorant and does not know the way of God, how can he teach others?

And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?

Luke 6:39

#### **5. Buying your way into the job.**

Yes, tithing/giving is a biblical principle. In both the old and new testament.

Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

Proverbs 3:9-10

For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept *them*. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

**Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.**

Ye *are* cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, *even* this whole nation.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it*.

And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:6-11

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Luke 6:38

But this *I say*, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

But tithing/giving is for the Lord's purpose. And should not be seen as a way of buying you favour with the church hierarchy, so that you can get into a position of authority.

And even thinking that you can directly promote yourself, or obtain gifts from the Lord, with money is an evil sin called Simony.

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

**And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,**

**Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.**

**But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.**

**Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.**

**Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.**

**For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and *in* the bond of iniquity.**

Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

Acts 8:14-24

## **6. An untried novice.**

Being a novice and untested is also a danger. Because such an one will lack roots, and therefore if his hand is prospered and he does a good work, he will be lifted up with pride. And when he falls this will give the devil, and the people of the world, occasion to condemn him publicly.

Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

1 Timothy 3:6

It should be noted that being a novice is not the same as being young.

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12

So if someone is born again at a young age, and continues to grow in the faith. Then there will come a point when they are still relatively young in the flesh, yet they will be well established in the faith. This is not condemned and is therefore not grounds to exclude a man. (Provided he meets the other requirements. These will be discussed later)

## **7. Pastor asks/pressures a church member into accepting a position if it becomes/is vacant.**

Especially in small churches, they don't want to have vacant authority positions, and rather than trusting in the Lord that he will add to them as they need. The pastor/elders ask people from the congregation who are not qualified. And if the offer is accepted both parties claim that it was a working of God. Perfect timing etc.

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

We as Christians are commanded to be patient. And if our stance on what the Word of God says has made us low in numbers then this is part of the testing of our faith, and we must not make hypocrites of ourselves. We must continue in the faith, trust in God, and let all things be done in decency and order.

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

**And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope:**

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 5:1-5

For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

**But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.**

Romans 8:24-25

Let all things be done decently and in order  
1 Corinthians 14:40

Remember the Word of God dictates when you shall be elevated. Not your circumstances!

So before we go on to examine the Biblical qualifications that a man must have in order to be fit for hierarchy within a church, let me clarify my circumstances.

I am not a pastor. I am not an elder. Or a deacon. Or a bishop. I am not married. And I do not have children. And therefore I am not qualified for any of these offices. I am not ruling any of them out in the future. But at this moment in time. I don't meet the entry requirements for any of these positions, and so I know God is not calling me into any of these roles. And until God decrees otherwise, and my circumstances change. These positions will continue to not be an option for me.

However, This does not mean that I can't do anything for the Lord.

The following is not an exhaustive list of the members of the body of Christ, but are examples of roles that do not require a man to be married with a family, for him to be fit for the calling.

- Apostle
- Prophet
- Teacher
- Workers of miracles
- One bestowed with the gifts of healings
- Helper
- One that speaks in tongues
- Evangelist
- Watchman
- Messenger
- Preacher

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

*Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?*

*Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?*

But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 12:27-31

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Ephesians 4:11

For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Go, set a watchman, let him declare what he seeth.

Isaiah 21:6

As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, *so is* a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he

refresheth the soul of his masters.

Proverbs 25:13

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Romans 10:14-15

So there are plenty of other options available for myself, and others in the same position.

However, there are far too many men within the church who feel that they can ignore these prerequisites, and jump on the fast track to becoming a pastor. And then when they get the title they desire, they all of a sudden think they are biblically qualified to be an overseer of believers.

They assume that everyone's mind operates like their own, and therefore think that people will only notice their title and not consider how they got there.

This breeds hypocrisy, and is rampant within the church. And unsurprisingly it bears no good fruit.

And it was also something that Jesus warned his disciples about regarding the Pharisees and Sadducees (The religious rulers at the time)

In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

Luke 12:1

These men treat the church like the rat race! And just want to get to the top as soon as possible!

And so we should not look to them for an example. But rather we should think upon the real men of God, spoken of in the Bible. And ponder on how they began, and how they rose up

Consider how David became King? God elevated him. Not ambition!

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

James 4:10

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

1 Peter 5:6

That does not mean that God's grace is unable to redeem someone who went into leadership when they were not called. (And have since built a family, ministry etc upon this) However it is going to require an lot of humility. And they are going to have to learn to teach and follow what is actually in the Bible, especially regarding doctrine. And further, it means that if a man were to come to them for advice, regarding getting into the ministry as a pastor, deacon elder etc, then they would have to admit that they are not fit for giving personal advice on the subject. And should direct the man to the scriptures and be content that he is a living example of God's amazing grace.

And I am not saying that I am perfect. Because if it wasn't for the grace of God, I would be in Hell.

But when it comes to this topic I am not speaking as a hypocrite.

Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; **and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.**

Matthew 7:5

Because although there are a lot of other problems in the modern day church. The buck stops with these men. It is due to their failings that the main stream church is in the state it is in, and that it has been back sliding for a long time!

These men have been slothful, unthorough, prideful & vain. They lack nobility, diligence and discipline. But most of all they lack godliness.

It is the men's duty to learn the doctrines of the bible. To hold fast on to them. To walk in faith with them. And to teach them to the younger men so that they can continue the work that Jesus Christ commissioned the church to do.

For centuries there have been many godly men who have faithfully carried out the work that the Lord has laid before them. And much of what we have today is built upon the work of these men.

Consider the Apostles, the early church fathers, the faithful martyrs and laterly the men who compiled the King James Bible. Noah Webster's Dictionary. And Strongs' concordance. These men and the men that worked with them, carried out a great undertaking to help us have, and better understand the Word of God. And there are a wealth of other good works, men of God have done in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Both on the earth and in the church, for the benefit of men at the time and for future generations.

Consider all the church buildings that have been established for the sole purpose of serving and worshipping God.

Yet today, how many of them contain the truth?

This generation of men has abandoned their roles within the church, and have sought out worldly pleasures and temporal riches. They have dropped the ball and sold out the future generations. And for what? What do they have to show for it?

They may have money, or fame, or a finite amount of power. Or maybe even all of these things. But you only have to look at the sorry state of their congregations to know that they have no treasure waiting on them in heaven. If they go there!

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 7:21

The time is coming when God is going to shake all that can be shaken. And we are all going to find out who is who.

See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more *shall not we escape*, if we turn away from him that *speaketh* from heaven:

**Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.**

**And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.**

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

Hebrews 12:25-28

No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth *it* under a bed; but setteth *it* on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light.

**For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither *any thing* hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.**

Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; **and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.**

Luke 8:16-18

So we all know who is for real. And who is in it for the show (and the money!)

Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,

Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:

All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, *that* observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay *them* on men's shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers.

But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,

And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.

But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, *even* Christ; and all ye are brethren.

And call no *man* your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, *even* Christ.

But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in *yourselves*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

Woe unto you, *ye* blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!

*Ye* fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold?

And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty.

*Ye* fools and blind: for whether *is* greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?

Whoso therefore shall swear by the altar, sweareth by it, and by all things thereon.

And whoso shall swear by the temple, sweareth by it, and by him that dwelleth therein.

And he that shall swear by heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by him that sitteth thereon.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin,

and have omitted the weightier *matters* of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

*Ye* blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

*Thou* blind Pharisee, cleanse first that *which is* within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead *men's* bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.

*Ye* serpents, *ye* generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and *some* of them ye shall kill and crucify; and *some* of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute *them* from city to city:

That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

Matthew 23:1-36

(The above is in reference to the Jewish leaders of the time, but it is still, as ever, an accurate description of hypocritical leadership which is within so many of today's churches)

Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

**But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.**

**The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.**

I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine.

John 10:7-14

So on that note, let us look to the Word of God, and see what the conditions *are* for a man to occupy the position of bishop, deacon, elder or pastor.

This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

**A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife**, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous:  
One that ruleth well his own house, **having his children in subjection with all gravity;**  
**(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)**

Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.  
Moreover he must have a good report of them that are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;

Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.

Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.

**Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.**

For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 3:1-13

For this cause left I thee in Crete, **that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:**

**If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.**

**For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;**

**But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;**

**Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.**

Titus 1:5-9

**The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder,** and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

**Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;**

**Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.**

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

1 Peter 5:1-5

So the MINIMUM fleshly requirements a man has to have in order to be a bishop, deacon or elder is a wife and children. And then on top of that there are a list of other requirements that have to be met. So just having a wife and children doesn't automatically qualify you to be a pastor.

In a nutshell, you have to prove that you can bring up your own family in the way of the Lord, BEFORE God will let you take care of his family.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

**And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.**

Ephesians 6:1-4

Also, some might dispute the above scriptures saying it does not state that an elder has to be married. However, the following clearly show us that an elder is an authority position

**And when they had ordained them elders in every church**, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

Acts 14:23

**Let the elders that rule well** be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.

Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.

Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

1 Timothy 5:17-20

And we read earlier (1 Peter 5) that Peter was an elder, and we see below that he was married.

And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever.

And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.

Matthew 8:14-15

And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her.

And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.

Luke 8:38-39

Now regarding pastors.

Although the role pastor is mentioned in the scriptures, it is not directly clarified what the conditions are for a man to be a pastor.

As for me, I have not hastened from *being* a pastor to follow thee: neither have I desired the woeful day; thou knowest: that which came out of my lips was *right* before thee.

Jeremiah 17:16

However, when we look to what the definitions of pastor and bishop, it becomes clear that they are the same position

## Pastor

P`ASTOR, n. [L. from pasco, pastum, to feed.]

1. A shepherd; one that has the care of flocks and herds.

2. A minister of the gospel who has the charge of a church and congregation, whose duty is to watch over the people of his charge, and instruct them in the sacred doctrines of the christian religion.

# Bishop

BISH'OP, n. [L. episcopus; Gr. of, over, and inspector, or visitor; to view, or inspect; whence, to visit; also, to view. This Greek and Latin word accompanied the introduction of christianity into the west and north of Europe.]

1. An overseer; a spiritual superintendent, ruler or director; applied to Christ.

Ye were as sheep going astray, but are now returned to the shepherd and bishop of your souls. 1. Pet.2.

2. In the primitive church, a spiritual overseer; an elder or presbyter; one who had the pastoral care of a church.

The same persons are in this chapter called elders or presbyters, and overseers or bishops. Scott, Comm. Acts 20.

Till the churches were multiplied, the bishops and presbyters were the same. Ib. Phil 1:1. 1. Tim.3.1. Titus 1:7.

Both the Greek and Latin fathers do, with one consent, declare, that bishops were called presbyters, and presbyters bishops, in apostolic times, the name being then common.

3. In the Greek, Latin, and some Protestant churches, a prelate, or person consecrated for the spiritual government and direction of a diocese. In Great Britain, bishops are nominated by the king, who, upon request of the dean and chapter, for leave to elect a bishop, sends a conge d'elire, or license to elect, with a letter missive, nominating the person whom he would have chosen. The election, by the chapter, must be made within twelve days, or the king has a right to appoint whom he pleases. Bishops are consecrated by an archbishop, with two assistant bishops. A bishop must be thirty years of age; and all bishops, except the bishop of Man, are peers of the realm.

By the canons of the Protestant Episcopal church in the United States, no diocese or state shall proceed to the election of a bishop, unless there are at least six officiating presbyters residing therein, who shall be qualified, according to the canons, to vote for a bishop; a majority of whom at least must concur in the election. But the conventions of two or more dioceses, or states, having together nine or more such presbyters, may join in the election of a bishop. A convention is composed of the clergy, and a lay delegation, consisting of one or more members from each parish. In every state, the bishop is to be chosen according to such rules as the convention of that state shall ordain. The mode of election, in most or all of the states, is by a concurrent vote of the clergy and laity, in convention, each body voting separately. Before a bishop can be consecrated, he must receive a testimonial of approbation from the General Convention of the church; or if that is not in session, from a majority of the standing committee in the several dioceses. The mode of consecrating bishops and ordaining priests and deacons differs not essentially from the practice in England.

**BISHOP**, n. A cant word for a mixture of wine, oranges, and sugar.

**BISHOP**, v.t. to confirm; to admit solemnly into the church.

1. Among horse-dealers, to use arts to make an old horse look like a young one, or to give a good appearance to a bad horse.

And so therefore the requirements to occupy these members are also the same.

We see that this is confirmed when we read what role God has advocated for pastors.

Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:

**And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and**

**understanding.**

Jeremiah 3:14-15

However, the following scriptures show us what happens to congregations, and lands, when the pastors neglect to follow the Word of God. (a la the modern day church)

For the pastors are become brutish, and have not sought the LORD: therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered.

Jeremiah 10:21

I have forsaken mine house, I have left mine heritage; I have given the dearly beloved of my soul into the hand of her enemies.

Mine heritage is unto me as a lion in the forest; it crieth out against me: therefore have I hated it.

Mine heritage *is* unto me *as* a speckled bird, the birds round about *are* against her; come ye, assemble all the beasts of the field, come to devour.

**Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness.**

**They have made it desolate, and being desolate it mourneth unto me; the whole land is made desolate, because no man layeth it to heart.**

The spoilers are come upon all high places through the wilderness: for the sword of the LORD shall devour from the *one* end of the land even to the *other* end of the land: no flesh shall have peace.

They have sown wheat, but shall reap thorns: they have put themselves to pain, *but* shall not profit: and they shall be ashamed of your revenues because of the fierce anger of the LORD.

Jeremiah 12:7-13

However, the Lord will ensure that these men are punished accordingly!

Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.

Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.

And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.

And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 23:1-4

And in their place, He will set up men that are fit for the calling!

Praise the Lord!!