

# WHOSE IN CHARGE OF CHRIST'S CHURCH? (SCRIPTURALLY)

MATTHEW 16:13-19

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# We Find Answers to What God Wants in His Word!

***“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness:***

***That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”***

***2 Timothy 3:15-16***

# The Apostle John Warns Us!

***“Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”***

***2 John 9***

# #1 First and Foremost, Christ is the Head of the Church

## **It is His Organization!**

***“And He (Christ) is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence (first place, occupy the chief place).” Colossians 1:18***



***So Christ is No. 1  
in His Church!!!***

# #2 Christ Gives Authority in His Church to the Apostles

□ 2 Timothy 3:15-16

□ Matthew 16:16

***“And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”***

□ Matthew 16:18

***“And I say also unto thee That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”***


# Matthew 16:19

***“And I will give unto thee, the keys to the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”***

# Observations

- How should Jesus' local church be organized and led?
- Has God left that decision to us?
- Has he given us the authority to implement what we think is the most efficient and effective form of organization and government
- Or has He made that decision himself?





#3 The Apostles Planted Local Churches of Christ and Left Ministers at Those Churches to Develop the Work and Set Up a Position Called Elders to Oversee Local Congregations

# Titus 1:4-5

***“To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour;”***

# Titus 1:5

***“For this cause I left thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting (unfinished, what remains), and ordain elders in every city as I had appointed thee.”***



# Acts 14:23, Concerning the Church Missionary Work of Paul and Barnabas:

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

# Terms Used For The Local Church Leaders in the Bible

<u>Greek</u>	<u>Transliteration</u>	<u>Latin</u>	English
<i>Episkopos</i>	<i>Bishop</i>	<i>Supervisor</i>	<i>Overseer</i>
<i>Presbyteros</i>	<i>Presbyter</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Elder</i>
<i>Poimen</i>		<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Shepherd</i>
<i>Diakonos</i>			<i>Deacon</i>

# The Terms Elder, Bishop, Pastor Refer to the Same Position

## **Acts 20:17**

***“And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders (presbyteros) of the church.”***

## **Acts 20:28**

***“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers (Bishops), to feed (Shepherd, Pastor, Poimen) the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood.”***

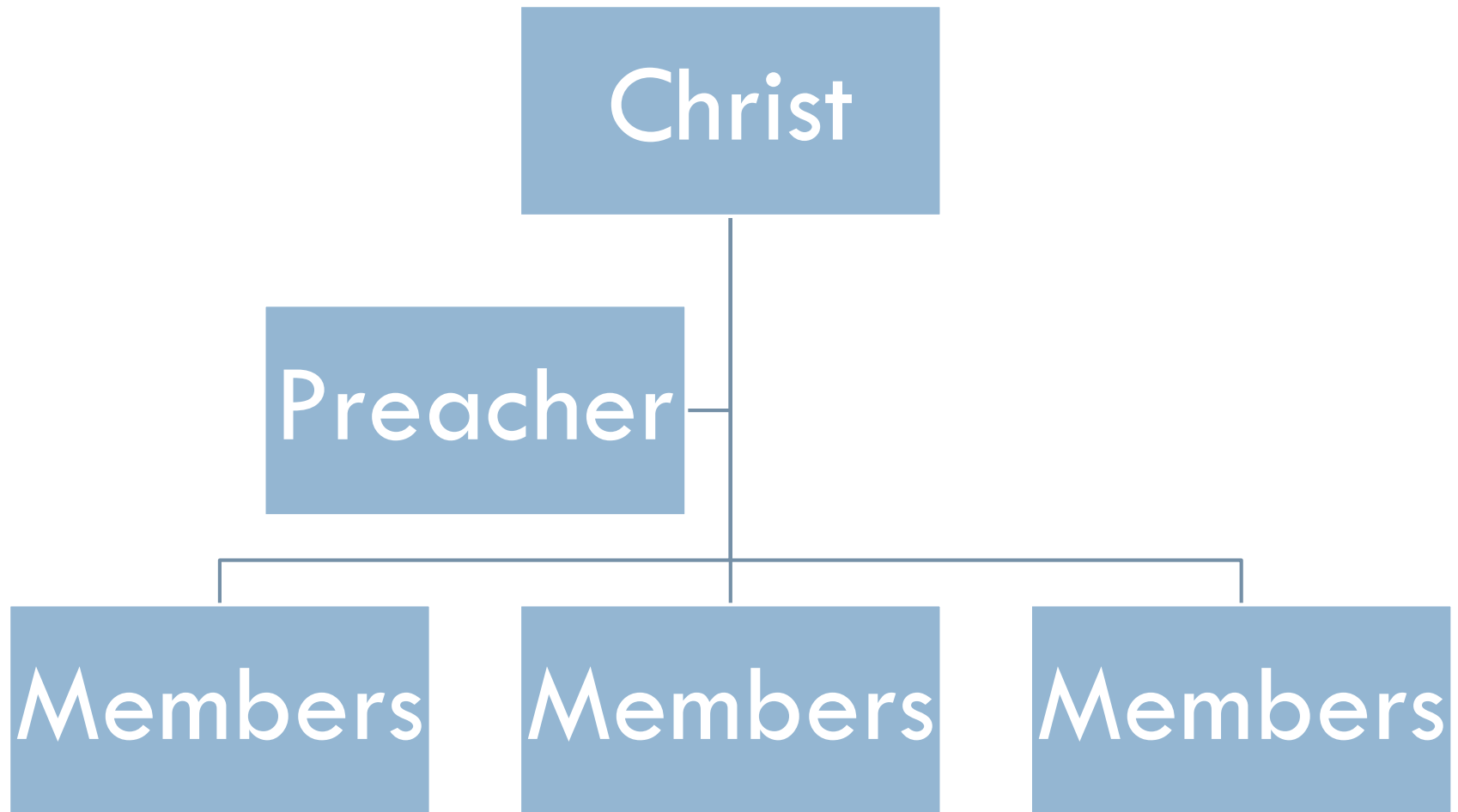
# Observations

- In the New Testament, the word Elders is always used in a collegial group (plural) in Christian congregations  
Acts 14:23; 21:18, 1 Timothy 4:14, James 5:14
- Look at Philippians 1:1

***“Paul and Timothy, the servants of Jesus Christ,  
To all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the  
bishops and deacons:”***

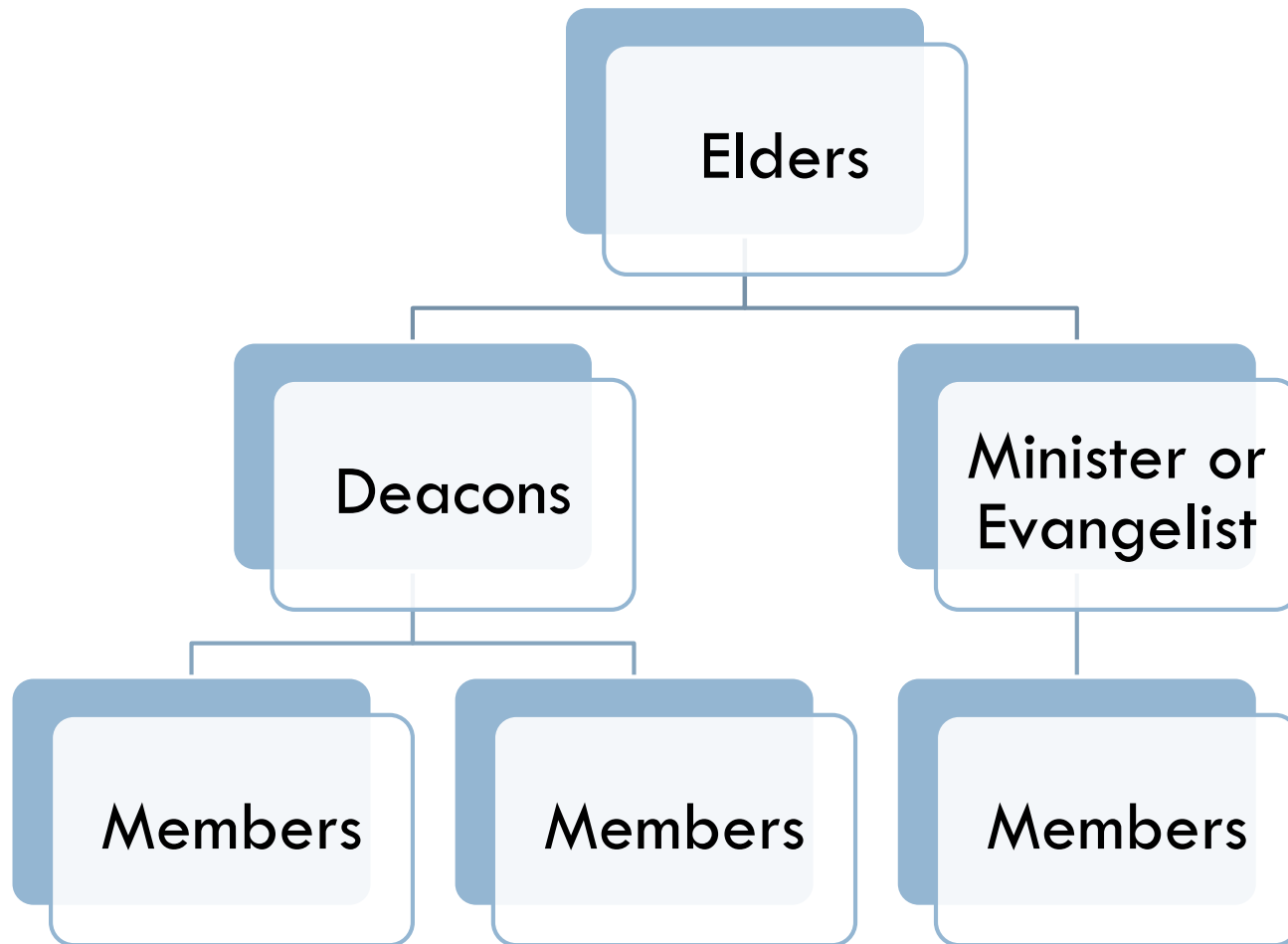
- ***There is NO scripture for the “Single Pastor” form of church organization***
- ***God Knows Best!***

# So Where is the Preacher? Titus 1:5 (In the Infancy of the Church)

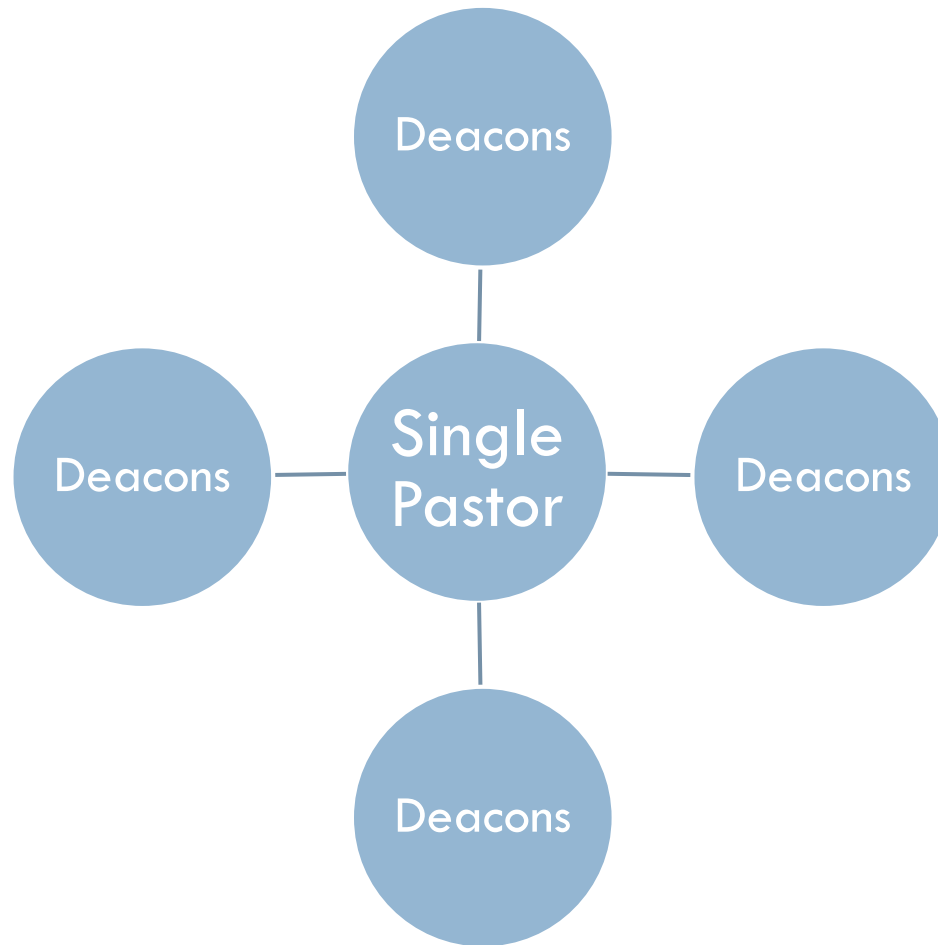




# Christ is the Head



# No Scripture for This Model !



# Deacons in the Bible

## The Word “Diakonos” is Used Two Ways in the Bible

- 1) In a general sense as a servant or helper, someone who ministers to the needs of others, Romans 16:1, Colossians 1:7; 4:7; 1 Timothy 4:6
- 2) A group of men who meet certain qualifications  
1 Timothy 3:8-13
- 3) These men are trusted servants who assist the elders in carrying out their work

So Who's in Charge of Christ's Church?

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***Christ Is!***

***If We Use the Bible Only  
As Our Rule And Guide  
As Christ Has Commanded***

# The Plan Of Salvation

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Hear the Gospel	Acts 15:7
Believe the Gospel	Acts 15:7
Repent of Sins	Acts 17:30
Confess Christ	Acts 8:37
Be Baptized	Acts 8:38