

Growing the Eldership in SCF

**Ben Lees
November 2016**

Leadership

Church Leadership

**No blueprint, no
structure chart. But
some important
indications**

Mark 10:42-45 42 But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. 44 And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

1 Corinthians 12

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body

Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers.....

Two Forms of Leadership

- Leadership in terms of the influence and impact of the ministry gifts – church planting, preaching, teaching, evangelism etc
- Leadership in terms of oversight of the good order of a church's ministry and care of its members

These are not exclusive of each other and can be present in the same person but different terms tend to apply

Ephesians 4:11-13 - And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

The Office of An Elder

**It is a trustworthy statement: if any man
aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine
work he desires *to do* (NASB)**

What does it mean?

Presbuteros – Original meaning was Older man but evolved to mean a member of the Sanhedrin – It is also where we get our word priest from.

Episkopos – or Bishop – one who gives oversight

Poimen – Pastor or Shepherd

**1 Peter 5:1 The *elders* who are among
you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder
and a witness of the sufferings of
Christ, and also a partaker of the
glory that will be revealed:
Shepherd the flock of God which is
among you, serving as *overseers*,**

The Heart

Mark 10:42-45 42 But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. 44 And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

1 Timothy 3 It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires *to do*. 2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not addicted to wine [or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. 4 *He must be* one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity 5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), 6 *and* not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. 7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside *the church*, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Luke 14:8 “When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honourable than you be invited by him; 9 and he who invited you and him come and say to you, ‘Give place to this man,’ and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. 10 But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, go up higher.’ Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. 11 For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

The Lure of Status

**Power tends to corrupt and absolute power
corrupts absolutely' *Lord Acton***

**There is *always* a
plurality of Elders**

The Role

1 Peter 5

Shepherd - Rule, Govern, nourish, cherish, protect
Oversight - Care, Watch over, Look after, be aware

Able To Teach

Able to Teach 1 Timothy 3:2

To Direct the Affairs of the church

To Rule Well -1 Timothy 5:17

Rebuke and Exhort

2 Timothy 4:2

Settle Disputes

Acts 15:1-2

**Watch out for your
souls**

Hebrew 13:17

Give an Account before God

Hebrews 13:17

Pray for the Sick

James 5:14

Church Response

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labour among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, 13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

**How Do We Operate in
SCF?**

- **The Number of Elders**
- **A Desire to Serve**
- **Having the mind of Christ**

How Do We Appoint

- **Those in Spiritual Oversight appoint Elders**
- **Prayerfully discern**
- **Biblical qualifications**
- **Discern the anointing within the body**
- **Ordain them**
- **Make vows before God**

SCF Vows For Eldership

Charge to.....

Question: Do you believe that God has called you to the office of Elder and to oversight of the church at Solihull Christian Fellowship.

Response: I do.

Question: *Ben*, I charge you in the sight of the Living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit - to whom we must all one day give an account - will you love and serve His people in this local expression of His Body on earth?

Response: I will.

Question: Will you faithfully uphold and administer His Righteousness and Truth in the grace of the Gospel, and discharge obediently the duties and responsibilities of leadership, without fear or favour, with the help of the Holy Spirit?

Response: I will by the grace of God.

Charge to the church:

Question: Do you recognise and accept God's call on *Ben* to the office of elder in this church?

Response: We do.

Question: Will you love, support and pray for *Ben, Claire and the children* as he takes up this position? Will you willingly submit to his leadership in the grace of God?

Response: We will by the grace of God.



Next Week - The Role of Women in Leadership