

Session 45

Topic

Authority of the Church - Part 2

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Online Content

<https://sermonaudio.com/sermon/116231035223366>

QR Code





SESSION FORTY-FIVE
STUDENT NOTES





SHINING LIGHT INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH

What role the seventy played in ministry later on is not clear, but it may be that M_____ who was the replacement for Judas was one of them. In **Acts 1**, it shows that when they cast lots to see who the Lord would have, the candidates for apostleship had to be as we read in **Acts 1:21-26 (Read)**.

Note: they p_____ before the casting of the l_____ to seek from the Lord whom He had c_____ (**Verse 24**). They did things decently and in order, and sought who the one was **that the Lord wanted**.

We have not looked at that to go off on a “rabbit trail”, but to immediately see in this point that the leadership of the local Church should be as much as possible (**taking into consideration the great lack of ministry leaders at this time**), one whom the Lord has “**called**” which also means divine vocation or appointed.

Read **Matthew 10:1 - Note:** The twelve were already following the Lord Jesus ministry wise by this time, but here the Lord specifically called the twelve. This was not just a shout out to go to Him, but it was a calling for ministry... see the rest of the verse. Look also at **Luke 6:12-13 & Luke 9:1-3 (parallel verses to Matthew 10:1)**.

Turn to **2 Timothy 1:9-11 (Read) - remember, this is one of the pastoral epistles where Paul is writing to Timothy also c_____ to the ministry as an evangelist** as we see in **2 Timothy 4:5**.

We can also see in respect of the apostles that they were chosen - **John 15:16 (Read)**.

John 15:16 is the Lord Jesus to the apostles/leaders in the ministry at that time (the night of the Last Supper when only the apostles were there), who also were the only ones who directly received the Great Commission on the Mount of Olives in **Acts 1:2 (Read)** which also shows He chose them.

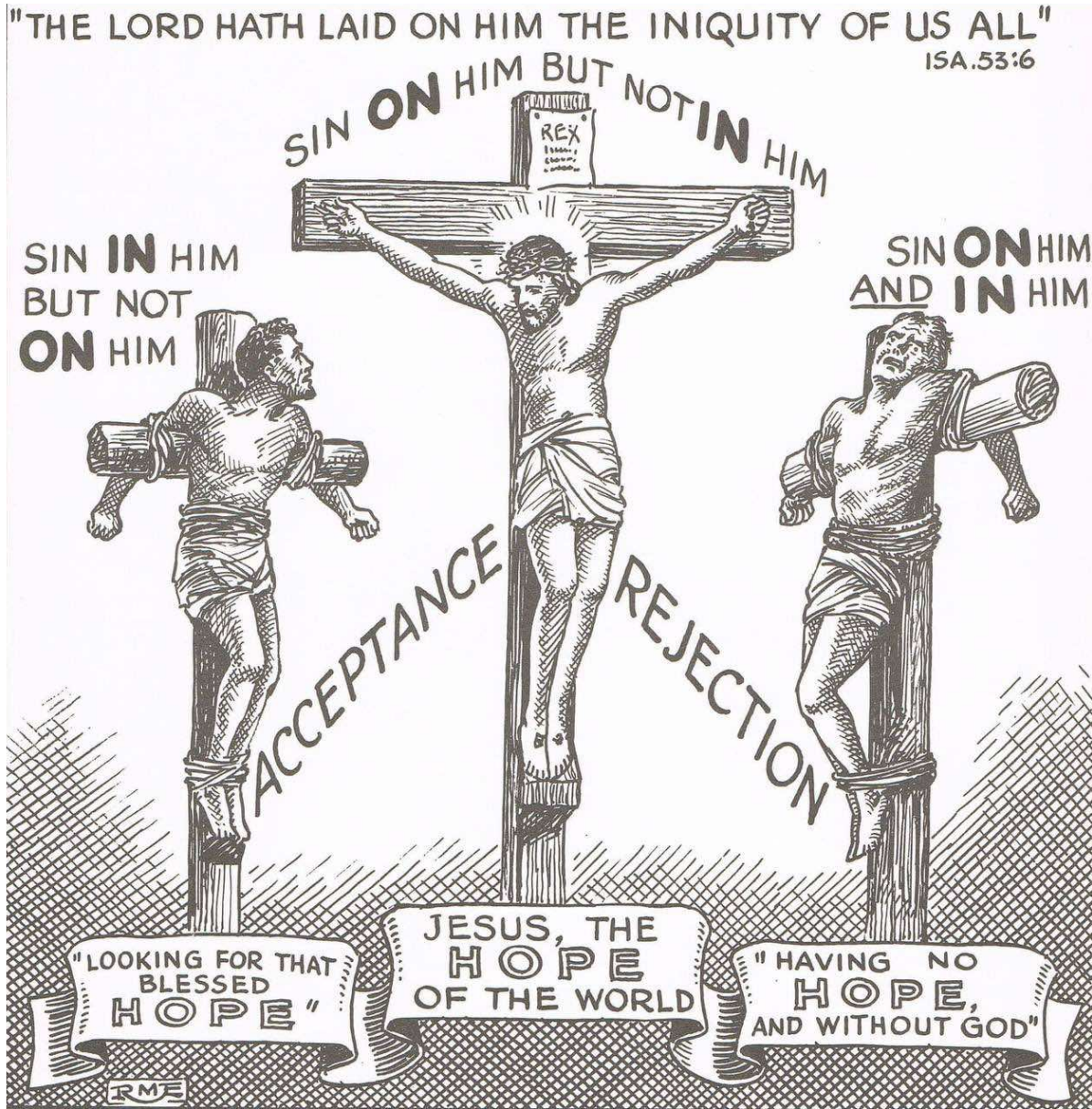
See also **2 Timothy 1:11**, and we see Paul state he was appointed to be an apostle, a preacher, and a teacher.

Now, I am not looking at these verses to set up an exclusive leadership, with special authority - not at all - again especially as we look at the situation we see today in churches in this country (& elsewhere), but to highlight the way the Lord Jesus set things up when He was setting the pattern for how the Local Church would be in respect of l_____, a_____ and s_____.

So, whether it be called, or chosen, or being appointed by God for the ministry, God was giving those men a Divine vocation to follow, and therefore the necessary authority to fulfil the role He had for them. As the Word of God is our textbook on how to do things, these things naturally apply to us today.

The Lord set things decently and in order in respect of the church for the proper authority to be there for the functions of the local church, which as I said earlier encapsulates the topics we are covering today.

In the verses we have looked at, we see a great example of the training the Lord Jesus gave these men for the future ministry post the Ascension. This was a time where they were to put into practice what the Lord had already taught them as part of their preparation.





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Look at **Acts 1:2**. Here we see the eleven apostles (Judas having not yet been replaced), assembled on the M__ O_____ (**Verse 12**), at the time the Lord ascended back to heaven after giving them the Great Commission (**Verse 8**).

In **verse 2**, we see the Lord Jesus gave commandments to the Apostles. That is not talking of the ten commandments, for of course they already had them, and had been during their lives already trying live by them. Turn to **John 13:34-35** to see **an example** of the Lord giving the apostles commandments to put into practice for the ministry they were called to do.

You might think, “well, that is nice to love one another!” But it is far more reaching for the ministry than just loving one another, for if we are genuine in this, then look at the result in Verse 35... “By this shall _____ m_____ know ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

Naturally, where it says “all men”, it means everyone - male and female, adult and child, and thereby if people see a genuine love between the brethren as brethren, then they see Christ in us, and thereby we have an opportunity for the Lord to use us in getting the Gospel to those people.

Also in **Acts 1:2**, the Lord Jesus had chosen these men for the ministry. That is, He had selected them for the ministry they were in, as we see it read: “...had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen.”

Therefore, the first thing we have seen in respect of authority is the leadership of the local c_____ is after the pattern the Lord Jesus put in place from the beginning.

If there is no authority, then the church becomes a disjointed mess. However, let me say this... that does not mean that those in authority have the right to be a dictator.

This may apply to the Pastor of the church, or even the deacon(s) if the Lord has seen fit to not give a pastor to a church for a season. The leadership of the church means being one who leads or guides the church on the path The L_____ Himself has directed them to follow.

In **1 Peter 5:2-3** it reads: “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 l_____ over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.” That is men in the ministry, our lives should be a pattern or example to imitate.

The word “lords” there in Verse 3 means a master or someone possessing a supreme power... No, that is not the right use for the position of Pastor or deacon.

But, looking at the first part of **verse 2**, Peter wrote: “Feed the flock of God which is among you...” The leadership of the church has authority from the Lord to teach the Word of God for the spiritual nourishment of the believers, and also to counsel from the Word of God for the w_____ of the members.

Now, the word “oversight” in Verse 2, also speaks of authority, as it means superintendence which is taking watchful care with the purpose of direction and authority to direct.



Two: The leadership of the Local Church is to teach and thereby train people for what the Lord would have in their individual lives, that is, their spiritual wellbeing. Acts 2:42, 46-47 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

The will of God is for every believer to not only be nourished spiritually in their walk with the Lord through the L_____ C_____, but that it would lead to those individuals becoming an effective contributing factor in the church.

From the individual believers in a church, the Lord then calls those whom He would have to minister in a Local Church, or to do the work of missions. Whether the believers from the early church at Jerusalem realised it or not, their grounding and training in the Word of God, and their service in the early years of the church was training for them to do missions, and to establish new churches in the places they were spread to. See **Acts 11:20-26 (READ). This is missions.**

One can well understand that in the early days of the church in Jerusalem, the disciples there had no idea of what lay ahead, & how the Lord would use them to further the cause of the G_____ in the G_____ C_____.

Now, to just add something in here, the training of individuals that the Lord would have in the ministry can be achieved in this day and age in more ways than one.

We have already seen that from the day of Pentecost onwards in the early church before the persecution, the apostles were the ones responsible for the training of those whom the Lord would call to be in the ministry. **See Acts 2:42 (teaching all aspects of the Christian life, most importantly doctrine).**

Acts 4:34-37 (teaching the proper management of what was given for the Lord's work). Interesting to see here the first mention of Barnabas who would be sent out to minister in and establish the work in Antioch, the sending church for the apostle to the Gentiles (Paul), who also was Paul's companion on his first missionary journey.

Acts 5:1-11. Teaching by way of administering Church discipline in the matter of Ananias and Sapphira. It is just as well that there is more grace in giving these days, or we'd have a lot of deceased church

members! 😊

Acts 6:1-4. Teaching the perimeters of responsibilities for the minister of the Gospel. He is ultimately not to be "the chief cook and bottle washer" forever in the Church. Naturally, when starting to plant a L_____ C_____, the church planter and family must needs do everything (unless they have another capable family to start with them and help them).

However, as new people are saved and grow in their walk with the Lord, or new people come in that are established in their walk with Christ, they should take up ministries in the church according to the spiritual gifts God has given them (and I am most definitely **NOT** talking of the sign gifts that were for the Jews in the early church, i.e. tongues etc...).

That is exactly what we see in **Acts 6**. The church has grown, the apostles had been overseeing the distribution of the finances etc... as we saw in Acts 4, but then a need arose in respect of the daily



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Look at **Acts 6:1-7**. Here we see the twelve apostles state it was not reason that they should leave the Word of God and serve tables.

The word “reason” means pleasing or agreeable. That is, “it is not pleasing or agreeable to leave the Word of God and serve tables.”

We also see in these verses by having the first seven deacons of the New Testament, men who were full of f_____ and of the H_____ S_____ that God blessed the work abundantly. Not only did they do their duty towards the widows faithfully, but their faithfulness in duties resulted in the Lord using them mightily in general ministry also.

So, church member: “Stand Up! Stand Up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross...” and use the gifts God has given you, and shake off the nanny state mentality that this society fosters.

But let me make an honest statement. If you expect your pastor to be the “chief cook and bottle washer” in respect of the different ministries of the church permanently, you will burn him out and eventually lose him.

Now, quickly before we move on, let us just think about the matter of widows in the church. Turn to **1 Timothy 5:1-11 (READ)**. In short, **verse 5** speaks of a widow indeed.

A widow indeed is one who has lost their husband, are on their own and have no family, and it would seem from this passage no support structure (talking physically, emotionally and financially). Now, financially in the nanny state we are in today (depending on the individual circumstances), is generally not a consideration, however, physically and emotionally is another matter. There are times of course where having compassion financially not just to the widows but generally in the church is good and right.

Three: The Local Church has the authority to ordain men to the ministry, and also to send out men to do the ministry of the Gospel. 1 Timothy 2:7 & Acts 13:1-4 (Paul ordained); **Acts 1:16-26** (Matthias - proper qualifications).

Why the qualifications for Matthias? By being with the Lord from the b_____, he also would have been well trained by the Son of God Himself, & therefore ready for ministry.

One thing I would like to stop and consider at this point is this, we have seen:

- a) The Lord Jesus train the apostles so that they would be ministry ready for their time to do the ultimate ministries He had called them for;
- b) That the Lord appointed another seventy to go out by two in Luke 10:1. It says He sent them ahead of Him into every city and place He would then go to. It doesn't say that He sent them ministry style like He did the t_____. **See Luke 9:1-2.**

This seems to be a picture of the church membership that are serious about their walk with the Lord, but not in training for the ministry. However, as they walked with the Lord also for the course of the Lord's earthly ministry, they also were able to be good students for ministry... See Acts 1:20-23.



c). Considering Acts 2:42-47, Acts 8:1-4 & Acts 11:19-26, we see that the apostles had in reality trained the believers that were dispersed from the church at J_____ when the persecution broke out, as they preached the Word (Acts 8:4), and churches were started (Acts 11:19-26).

The training of men (& women) for the ministry is ultimately the responsibility of the Local Church, but in this day of Bible College via online, we have good options for the training of ministry candidates.

Returning to our point of the Local Church has the authority to ordain men to the ministry, and also to send out men to do the ministry of the Gospel, we can see Paul reminding Titus of what he (Titus) was to be doing there in Crete, that is, ordaining men to lead the churches there in Crete. **See Titus 1:4-10**

Think also of **Acts 6:1-8**. In these verses we see the first seven deacons for the Church at Jerusalem chosen. The choosing of these first deacons was necessitated due to the matter of the daily ministrations to the G_____ w_____ being neglected.

We can see from these Scriptures that the development of the church in Jerusalem was at times developed as a need arose, as we have seen.

Final Point: Supporting missions and also caring for others outside of the local church you're in.

We are just going to briefly look at this point. Philippians 4:14-17. In here we see the regular support from the church at Philippi for which Paul was thankful, and take note of Verse 17, it is fruit to the account of the supporting churches when we give to missions.

See also 2 Corinthians 11:7-9. Paul here is not saying he stole or robbed from the churches, but was making the point of not being accountable to the church at Corinth. Note: he had been receiving support from churches, not just one.

Sometimes people say "well, you should just go get a job like Paul", but the reality is that is said out of ignorance of the reality. The ideal model of a local church in **Acts 2**, does not find the ministers of the Gospel working a secular job, but focused on the ministry of the Word and prayer.

Finally, relief for the saints generally. See Romans 15:24-27. As God gives opportunity, and we see a need for our brethren in other places, we should not hesitate to help where we can.