

Changed By Grace College & Seminary

SYS323 Ecclesiology - Class Notes

Name _____ Date _____

“The Ordination of Elders”

I. The Biblical Concept of Ordination

The overarching concept of ordination to ministry appears in both the Old and New Testaments. The concept is identified by various terms: _____, _____, _____.

This is the process of godly church leaders affirming the call, equipping, and maturity of new leaders to serve God’s purposes in the next generation. It validates / authenticates God’s will for a fully qualified man to serve God and His people. This is official recognition by the leadership of the church and a public announcement setting men aside for ministry.

“In the spiritual building this nearly comes next to doctrine, that pastor’s be ordained, to take charge of governing the church” (John Calvin, Titus).

A. In the Old Testament

1. _____ “ordained” (“filled the hand of”) _____ and his sons to the _____ of Israel.
2. He _____ represented God’s will for _____ to serve as high priest by laying hands on him, thereby ordaining him for priestly ministry (Ex.28:41; Num.8:9-11; 27:18-23)
3. Ordination “recognizes God’s _____ of a man to ministry and is the leadership’s way of _____ him to the congregation” (Mayhue).

“For example, the high priest of Israel was appointed (kathistatai, “put in place”) by God to minister on behalf of men in the things pertaining to God (Heb.5:1; 8:3). Moses recognized this fact and communicated it to Israel by laying his hands on Aaron” (Mayhue).

B. In the New Testament

1. The _____ side of appointment to ministry comes _____ (1 Tim.2:7; Gal.1:15-16; Acts 20:28)
2. God used godly _____ leaders to communicate to the people His appointment of these men (Jn.15:16; Mk.3:14; Acts 6; 14:23; Tit.1:5)

II. The Practical Essence of Ordination

“Ordination is to church leadership as the bar exam is to the legal profession, the C.P.A. exam to accounting, or state board examinations to medical practice. All these examinations serve to verify genuine qualifications for service in the respective fields. More specifically, the ordination process serves to: identify and certify men truly called and equipped by God for full-time pastoral ministry; eliminate men seeking ministry credentials who are not called by God; give a congregation great confidence that their leaders are genuinely appointed by God; furnish a standard of accountability for the church concerning a man's ministry; commend a man publicly to the ministry wherever God's will takes him” (Richard Mayhue, *Ordination to Pastoral Ministry*, from *Rediscovering Pastoral Ministry*, 138).

- A. _____ Desire (1 Tim.3:1)
- B. _____ Testing (1 Tim.3:10)
 1. _____ (1 Tim.3:2-3)
 2. _____ (1 Tim.3:4-5)
 3. _____ (1 Tim.3:2; Tit.1:9)
 4. _____ (Tit.1:9)
 5. _____ (1 Tim.3:2)