

The Structure of Church Authority

Ephesians 1

- All authority is held by God, Who exists and functions as Trinity.
- Father, Ephesians 1.2-6
- Son, Ephesians 1.7-12
- Spirit, Ephesians 1.13-14
- God is the Head of the Church, Ephesians 1.22
- The Church is the Body of God. Ephesians 1.23

God wields His authority in the Church through His Word

- Matthew 16.15-19
- Matthew 18.15-18
- Acts 14.27
- Acts 15.3
- I Corinthians 5.1-5. “When ye are gathered together”

All offices (thus, the officers), are under
the authority of the Church

- I Corinthians 12.27-28
- Ephesians 4.11-12
- Apostles: “sent ones”
- It has a broad, general use: II
Corinthians 8.23, Hebrews 3.1
- And the narrow, office use.

Apostles

- There were 12. Matthew 10.2
- They saw Jesus.
- They were taught by Jesus
- They wrote most of the NT.
- They are not replaced. The apostles replaced Judas Iscariot (Acts 1.23-26), with Matthias, but God replaced Judas with Paul

Prophets

- Prophets spoke God's words.
- Acts 11.27-28, Acts 21.10-14
- I Corinthians 14.29-37
- They ceased, I Corinthians 13.8-9

Evangelists

- One who brings the Good News
- Philip was one (Acts 21.8). Acts 8.5; 8.26-27

Pastors and Teachers

- Two words describe one office
- Three words describe this office: elder, pastor, bishop