

FOUNDATIONS – MY LIFE IN CHRIST’S BLESSED – UNIT 3

MLICB – 3.3

LOCAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP

I. **Introduction:** This lesson discusses God’s purpose in providing Leadership for His people. Leadership is provided in the midst of a fallen world to bless, protect, model, and guide God’s people. The basic structure and function of church government and the covering, or protection this provides for the local church are the subject of this lesson.

Heb. 13:7 Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith.
NLT

“Leadership is influence — nothing more, nothing less.” —John C. Maxwell

II. Reasons we need identifiable _____:

A. **We regularly experience potentially destructive trials, troubles, and crisis.**

— 2Tim. 3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

B. **Godly leadership is a blessing** — Proverbs 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan.

1. **People need good counsel** — Proverbs 11:14 Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

C. **God desires to help people in trouble** — Psa. 91:1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2. I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust. (1Pet 5:1-3)

D. **We have an enemy** — 1Pet. 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” Satan attacks whatever is ordained of God and the family has always come under great attack.

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III. The main channels God works through to lead people:

- A. **The _____**: The home is the first form of government established by God on earth. A mother, and father having children is God’s most basic plan for providing love to all people for all time. The typical family consists of Husband, wife, and children.
1. Ephesians 5:22-24 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the Husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and he is the savior of the body. Therefore, as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.
 2. Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,”
 3. Eph 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ...
 4. Mal 2:15 But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit,
- B. **Civil Government**: Civil government is secular in nature, existing for the the preservation of social order by restraining and punishing evil behavior and approving good behavior.
1. 1Pet. 2:13 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme, 14 or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.
 2. Romans 13:1-3 Let every person be loyally subject to the governing civil authorities. For there is no authority except from God ... Therefore he who resists and sets himself up against authority resist what God has appointed and arranged. ... Then do what is right and you will receive his approval and commendation. AMP
 3. As citizens of our nation we enjoy personal freedoms guaranteed by our constitution as well as protection provided by our laws, police, and armies. We are expected to support our government by abiding by the laws of the land.
- C. **Local Church** — “The Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs.” CS Lewis

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1. Hebrews 13:17 Obey your spiritual leaders and submit to them (recognizing their authority over you), for they are constantly keeping watch over your souls and guarding your spiritual welfare, as men who will have to render an account ... AMP (Heb 13:7;
 2. In the local church we find a plurality of elders (shepherds) who provide protection, covering and government. God wants to rule his people in such a way that they bring forth fruit and righteousness through the church. Church government was never to depress, abuse, or oppress Christians.
 3. ACF has a variety of serving leaders besides elders: Deacons; LifeGroup Leaders; Ministry overseers; disciple maker; etc... — Acts 6:3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;
- D. The Job — Marketplace; Employment; Business; Services; etc...**
1. 1Pet. 2:18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.
 2. Eph. 6:5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;

IV. Resistance to being led — “led-poisoning”: Even as Christians we often struggle with accepting the role of leadership in our lives.

- A. Attitude of independence: Proverbs 28:26 He who leans on, trusts in, and is confident of his own mind and heart is a self confident fool, but who walks in skillful and godly Wisdom shall be delivered. AMP
- B. Attitude of _____: Jeremiah 5:23 But these people have hearts that draw back from God and wills that rebel against Him; they have revolted and quit His service... AMP
- C. Lack of trust in God: Prov 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.
- D. Personal “desires: James 4:1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?
- E. Which area listed above gives you the most difficulty? Family, ... Why?**

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IV. **Airport Christian Fellowship’s church government offices** — We consider ourselves an autonomous local assembly patterned after the New Testament Church. We are self-governing and self-supporting.

A. **Elders** – ACF recognizes the scriptural pattern which teaches a plurality of God-ordained Elders having primary authority in our church. This is for the shepherding of the people, shared counsel in ministering, and mutual accountability. A real strength is the blending of gifting, callings, and personalities. The Senior Pastor is considered the Lead or Ruling Elder, as well as the first among equals

1. **Acts 14:23** – appointed Elders in every church; **I Peter 5:1** – the elders who are among you
2. **Office and ministry of Elder (Bishop):**
 - a. **Elder** – Greek- Presbuteros- a senior, not a novice “The Man”
 - b. _____ – Greek – Episcopos- to oversee, a watchman “The Office”
 - c. **Pastor** – Greek- Poimen- shepherd, one who feeds, protects “The Work”
3. **Elder qualifications:** 1 Tim 3:2-7; 1 Pet 5:1-3 Above reproach, Husband of one Wife, temperate, prudent, having believing children, Not Self-willed, hospitable, able to teach, devout, manages household well, etc ...

B. _____ – ACF recognizes the office and ministry of the New Testament Deacon. They are nominated by individuals of the congregation and are examined and approved by the Elders.

1. **Definition of “deacon” - Greek-** to serve, to minister in practical and/or spiritual things
2. **The heart of a deacon** — The attitude of serving that was in Jesus, and should be in every church leader — **Mark 10:43-45**
3. **Office of a Deacon** — established in **Acts 6:1-7** ... brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; ...
4. **Qualifications of a Deacon:** similar to the requirements for an Elder with the exception that Deacons are not required to teach or preach although they may like Stephen and Phillip. **1 Timothy 3:8-13** ... For those who perform well as deacons acquire a good standing for themselves and also gain much confidence and freedom and boldness in the faith which is [founded on and centers] in Christ Jesus. AMP