**The New Testament Leaders**

 Teachers and Preachers

* Resource: Who’s In Charge Here? *A Handbook for Restoring Jesus to Leadership of His Church*
* Church leadership in the New Testament had the governmental “offices” or

 leadership positions of:

Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Teachers, Evangelists, Elders and Deacons

* This Teaching: The Role of Teachers and Preachers in New Testament Churches
* The New Testament Church model:
	+ Local congregations
	+ Led by local leaders (pastors, elders, deacons)
	+ Connected to other like-minded churches by *apostolic* and *prophetic* leadership
	+ In loose, relationship-based networks
	+ With no official institution and no leadership hierarchy
* The Holy Spirit is the leader of the Church
* The New Testament teaches us about our commission *(the Great Commission),* our spiritual gifts, and the church offices (positions of authority)
* Leadership offices explained by the Apostle Paul must be filled by *servant* leaders
* Apostle Paul and New Testament Leadership
* Eph. 4: 11-13
* And it was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for works of ministry and to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, as we mature to the full measure of the stature of Christ
* The Teacher
* Matt. 28:20
* *Teach* them to obey everything I have commanded you.
* Mark 1:22
* And they were astonished at His *teaching*, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.
* I Cor. 12:28
* And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third *teachers*, then workers of miracles, and those with gifts of healing, helping, administration, and various tongues.
* Men referred to in the New Testament as teachers include Jesus, Paul, Apollos, and Timothy
* I Tim. 2:7
* For which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle…a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth
* Acts. 18:24;28
* Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus…he spoke and *taught* accurately the things of the Lord…for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.
* The Ephesians 4 “office” of teacher vs. the “gift” of teaching
	+ Everyone is a teacher: at their home, at work, with friends, neighbors
	+ The talent of teaching vs. the gift of teaching
	+ People asked to teach at church: in the worship service, in classes, in small groups
	+ Have been granted this authority by the church leaders and (hopefully) the Holy Spirit
	+ And serve in an *office-like* position at the request of the leaders
* Matt. 23:8-12
* But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth your father, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Christ. The greatest among you shall be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.
* Elders and pastors ideally have the gift of teaching
* I Tim. 3:2
* Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach.
* The teacher’s responsibilities:
	+ To explain the Scriptures to the congregation
	+ To help disciple young believers
	+ To guide believers into how they can successfully participate in the basic aspects of the Faith
		- Prayer
		- Bible study
		- Worship
		- Fellowship
		- Evangelism
		- Giving
		- Service
* Teachers are the most qualified of the New Testament offices to determine if a congregation is correct in her doctrine and practice.
	+ And to defend her from heresy within and philosophical attack from without
	+ Teachers help churches discern if prophetic utterances and apostolic direction are consistent with the written Word of God.
* Teachers must study and know the Bible
	+ They must walk in holiness so they can teach under the anointing of the Holy Spirit
	+ And *impart* Spirit-directed truth from their personal lives
	+ Teachers prepare their sermons with prayer and under the Holy Spirit’s direction for what the need is of their audience
	+ Praying for Spirit-guided inspiration
	+ And not just their latest theological interest
* Teachers may be called to be mentors in addition to lecturers
* Teachers and Prophets
* Teachers’ primary gift and role: explain the *logos,* the completed, revealed Word of God to man
	+ Found in the Written Word of God, the Bible
	+ The prophets’ role is to reveal the Word of God expressed in the moment as the Holy Spirit guides and directs believers in the here-and-now *(the rhema)*
	+ To bring knowledge, wisdom and guidance to today’s situations and problems
* Prophecy today compared to prophecy in the Bible
* The Canon
	+ Inspiration of the writers and the prophets in the Bible
	+ Translation of the Bible to our language and its transmission
* Rev. 22:18-19
* I testify to everyone who hears the words of prophecy in this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes away from the words of this book of prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and the holy city, which are described in this book.
* ”The close of the scriptural canon marks the point in the (still ongoing) divine-human conversation where the principles and doctrines that form the substance of Christian faith and practice are so adequately stated in human language that nothing more needs to be said. Bible-honoring Christians believe that nothing further will be said by God to extend or contradict those principles.”

 Dallas Willard

* While there have been no brand new revelations since the canon that contradict or add to Scripture, the Holy Spirit has been progressively clarifying, illuminating, and enlightening the Bible’s inspired words over the centuries—to the Church
	+ Medieval Church
	+ Reformation and Counter Reformation
	+ Post-revival insight
	+ And to every believer as he/she grows in Bible understanding
	+ With the help of Holy Spirit-led personal Bible study, teaching, and prophetic words (to self, from others) day by day
* The Holy Spirit speaks to believers’ spirits with His still small voice and guides them daily as we abide in Christ
* John 10:27
* My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me
* Rom. 8:14
* For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God
* The Word of God is bigger than the text of the Bible
	+ Jesus *is* the Word of God (John 1)
	+ The Word created the universe (John 1 and Heb. 1)
	+ The Lord places His Word above even His Name (Ps. 138:2)
* If any word is spoken by man in the “Name of the Lord,” the word must be entirely consistent with:
	+ The inspired teachings found in the written Scripture
	+ And the character, the attitude, redemptive intent, and the “sense” of Jesus
	+ At New Life we prefer:
		- “It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and us that…”
		- ”I sense the Spirit leading me to…”
* Teachers and prophets are occasionally in conflict
	+ Teacher end-of-spectrum folk allow for no in-the-moment Holy Spirit guidance and word
		- They tend to think rationally and “reasonably”
	+ Prophet end-of-spectrum folk think that any thought that comes to their minds is from God
		- They are more intuitive in their thinking and willing to trust their instincts
* The ideal: teachers and prophets working together to know the Bible well and learn to discern when the Lord is speaking through individuals in the moment
* Acts 13:1-3
* Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the *Holy Spirit said*, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away
* New Life’s “founding” word: that we would be like the church at Antioch
* Some folks have both teaching and prophetic gifts and “offices”
	+ Rick Joiner
	+ Bob Jones
* Some teachers and prophets are recognized first in their own congregations and then “promoted” by God to regional and even world-wide authority
	+ This promotion, if genuine, is from the Lord and not through self-promotion or nepotism
* Teaching when the church is in revival starts with the call for repentance, but always is encouraging and more like Peter in Acts 3
	+ Where teaching is about explaining what the Holy Spirit is actively doing, not what He could do if we behaved
* Acts 2:14-17
* But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. *For these are not drunk, as you suppose,* since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams
* Abraham Maslow defined most religion as people who have *not* had peak religious experiences, teaching other people who have *not* had these experiences, about people in the past who *have* hadthem
* Historical revivals featured great teaching, but also prophetic words, manifestation of the Spirit in tongues, shaking, shouting, crying, and being “slain in the Spirit”
	+ Events that frightens the more rational mind of teachers
	+ But are evidences of the Spirit’s work that the prophetic folk more easily embrace
	+ And open-to-the Spirit teachers will try to enjoy and contribute to positively
* From a safe distance of several hundred years or several thousand miles, revival looks invigorating. What could be more glorious than a mighty work of God in our midst, renewing thousands and converting tens of thousands? But when we look closely at a revival, we find something not nearly so clear as we imagined. There is sin, and infighting and doctrinal error. And if we find ourselves in the midst of revival, rather than being invigorated, we may be filled with skepticism, disgust, anger, or even fear.

 *When the Spirit Comes in Power, John White*

* Teachers and Preachers
* “Preacher” is not listed as a governmental office in Eph. 4:11-13
* The Greek word for preacher is: *kerux*
	+ Meaning a “town crier” or proclaimer of the truth
* “Preachers” in the Bible
	+ Jesus is described as a preacher of the gospel (Luke 4:18)
	+ Paul describes himself as a preacher to the Gentiles (II Tim. 1:11)
	+ Timothy is exhorted to be a preacher by Paul (II Tim. 4:2)
* We are all to preach the gospel (Rom. 10:14-15)
* Church history is full of folk referred to as great preachers:
	+ John Chrysostom
	+ George Whitefield
	+ Charles Finney
	+ Dwight Moody
	+ Billy Sunday
	+ Billy Graham
* What is the difference between a preacher and teacher?
* In practice a preacher tends to be more enthusiastic
	+ More exhorting
	+ More calling for action and repentance
	+ More willing to go “off script” and rely on the Spirit’s leading
* While the teacher is more likely to say, “here’s this information—its up to you what you are going to do with it.”
* Teachers occasionally take heat for not being more of a preacher
	+ And preachers are criticized for being to much in-your-face
* Of course, any sermon can have both teaching and preaching in it
	+ And any pastor/teacher/preacher can week-to-week do more counsel-comforting, or more teaching, or more passionately calling folks to repentance
* Teachers
	+ Must prepare for their sermons
	+ Must have *content* and *be precise*
	+ The more written word (Bible) used, the better and safer
	+ Personal anecdotes, brief narratives, visuals are good (but don’t over do them)
	+ Must be interesting and not boring
	+ Should go off script only with the Spirit’s prompting (at their peril)
* To avoid poor teaching/preaching
	+ Walk in holiness at least the week before you teach
	+ Recognize when the anointing is not on you, and when the congregation is not engaged consider changing directions or cutting the sermon short
	+ Select sermon content depending on your audience
		- Are they mostly Christian or not?
		- What is the range of their Christian maturity
		- *Challenging* beats boredom and condescension
* The pitfalls of preaching
	+ Can be condemning
		- Calls for repentance are good, but they must be redemptive
	+ 50-minute salvation messages to a saved crowd are a waste of Kingdom time
	+ Yelling, raging, and spitting does not necessarily equal anointing
	+ Criticizing people who are not present in the meeting (socialists, sodomites, and spiritualists) is ineffective, un-Biblical, and rude
		- Reserved for street corners

Teachers have three loves: love of learning, love of learners, and the love of bringing the first two loves together.

 Scott Hayden

Teaching is the profession on which all other professions depend.

 Linda Darling-Hammond

Good teaching is always subversive.

 Trevor Craig