

# The Rule Of The Church Authority

(Part 2)

<sup>13</sup> *The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening.* <sup>14</sup> *When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, “What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?”* <sup>15</sup> *Moses answered him, “Because the people come to me to seek God’s will.* <sup>16</sup> *Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God’s decrees and laws.”* <sup>17</sup> *Moses’ father-in-law replied, “What you are doing is not good.* <sup>18</sup> *You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone.* <sup>19</sup> *Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people’s representative before God and bring their disputes to him.* <sup>20</sup> *Teach them the decrees and laws, and show them the way to live and the duties they are to perform.* <sup>21</sup> *But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.* <sup>22</sup> *Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you.* <sup>23</sup> *If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied.”* <sup>24</sup> *Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said.* <sup>25</sup> *He chose capable men from all Israel and made them leaders of the people, officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.* <sup>26</sup> *They served as judges for the people at all times. The difficult cases they brought to Moses, but the simple ones they decided themselves.”* (Exodus 18:13-25)

We will use a Scripture from the Old Testament that speaks about the leadership of Moses over the Israelites and we will study from that the more precise rules for church leadership. The Israelites they were around 2-3 million in population and Moses was alone to work as a judge to help them to decide and determine what they need to do. His father in law when he saw that he admonished Moses that he should not do that alone but to raise up other people with him to do the same work and to extend the government body to more people so the task will be easy and the burden will be less on Moses (the leader) and on the people. As we review the above Scripture we can conclude the following rules of the church leadership.

**4- To judge:** To show the people and help them to know what is right and what is wrong. The responsibility of the church is to teach the people what is godly and what is ungodly and teach them to differentiate between the holy and the common as the word of God instruct us, *“They are to teach my people the difference between the holy and the common and show them how to distinguish between the unclean and the clean.”* (Ezekiel 44:23)

**5- Help the people to know God’s will:** *Moses said, “Because the people come to me to seek God’s will.”* This is one of the prime responsibilities of the church leader to help the people to know God’s will and to discipline them to do it. One aspect is to know God’s will another aspect is to achieve it. The responsibility of the church is to lead the people to know God’s will and direct them to do it. <sup>8</sup> *If cases come before your courts that are too difficult for you to judge—whether bloodshed, lawsuits or assaults—take them to the place the LORD your God will choose.* <sup>9</sup> *Go to the Levitical priests and to the judge who is in office at that time.*

*Inquire of them and they will give you the verdict.* <sup>10</sup> *You must act according to the decisions they give you at the place the LORD will choose. Be careful to do everything they instruct you to do.* <sup>11</sup> *Act according to whatever they teach you and the decisions they give you. Do not turn aside from what they tell you, to the right or to the left.”* (Deuteronomy 17:8-11) That is all to secure that the people of God will know God’s will and to do it and that is the responsibility of the church leadership and their authority. If the church fails to do that then the church had failed the Lord and the task that had entrusted with. The Lord also supported the church with authority when He said, *“Anyone who shows contempt for the judge or for the priest who stands ministering there to the LORD your God is to be put to death. You must purge the evil from Israel. All the people will hear and be afraid, and will not be contemptuous again.”* (Deuteronomy 17:12-13) That supported with Jesus word in *Matthew 18:15-17* *“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.* <sup>16</sup> *But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’* <sup>17</sup> *If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”*

**3- Help the people to decide:** As a church we do that by teaching them the word of God and His decrees and instructions, that will help them to take the right decisions.

**4- Show the people the way to live:** This another responsibility is to teach the people and show them the way they work, the way to serve God, the way to be good citizen, the way to have family, the way to be good parents and the way to take care of children.

**5- To show them the duties they are to perform:** Man according to the word of God had responsibilities directed toward God, his family, the church, his work and toward the society that he live with. The church responsibility is to show the people of God all these responsibilities they need to perform. And that will be the way for them to show their love and obedient to God.

**6- To select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens:** This is another responsibility for the church to select capable men with strict criteria to serve as judges and leaders over others who are new in faith. This is the responsibility of the church to raise up the next generation and future leaders to lead the flocks into all God’s promises. Jesus trained the seventy two disciples and the twelve apostle, later on the apostles trained other to lead. Paul said to Timothy the following: *“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”* (2 Timothy 2:2)

**My Dear and Beloved:** The church is a highly organized living structure compose of human and that is we and also of Divine where God dwell among us in The Holy Spirit. God govern His church with His word and gave big responsibility and task to the church leaders as well as gave them authority to help them in their service to God and toward His people.

**My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your clear word to me and thank you for the deep understanding of what the church all about. Lord I am willing to obey you in all the above matters and walk in your ways, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*