

The Rule Of The Church Authority

(Part 3)

We will continue to discuss in this message more about the responsibilities of the church in leading the people of God while we are waiting for the blessed appearance from heaven of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who will come to take us to heaven to be with Him forever.

The Holy Spirit will call people and equip them to lead the flocks. And the responsibility of the church is to recognize what God is doing and work with the Lord to teach people and train them to be equipped for God's service. God in His word in the Old and the New Testament supported that with many Scripture as we will discuss below:

“¹¹ It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” (Ephesians 4:11-16) So here clearly God gives different gifts to the church, therefore the church should recognize and approved what God is doing by appointing leaders with suitable titles and functions so that people of God will be equipped for God's service and the church will be build up and mature reaching the full measure of Christ. So there will be increase in number accompanied by maturity. In addition that will also enable the church to be protected and escape the cunning of Devil and the hazards of the false teaching and the false teachers. Paul said to Titus the following: *“The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.”* (Titus 1:5) There is always a need for a person who knows the word of God and the will of God to lead the people in any congregation so that God's blessings will continue to flow in people lives.

“¹⁸ Appoint judges and officials for each of your tribes in every town the LORD your God is giving you, and they shall judge the people fairly. ¹⁹ Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous. ²⁰ Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the LORD your God is giving you.” (Deuteronomy 16:18-20) Here we found clearly the importance of the church to teach the people justice and to maintain justice by avoiding favouritism and favouring some one over another. This will only be possible through leadership who keep and obey fully the word of God; such integrity of the church leadership will pave the way forward to appoint well equipped leaders who are known by their integrity. Such step is an important step the church would take for God and for the wellbeing of the people. This will secure the future for the church because leaders who fear God and walk in His ways and hate dishonest gain are noble vessels who will carry the word of God and pass it to the next generation.

“¹⁴ When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, “Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us,” ¹⁵ be sure to appoint over you the king the LORD your God chooses. He must be from among your own brothers. Do not place a foreigner over you, one who is not a brother Israelite. ¹⁶ The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the LORD has told you, “You are not to go back that way again. ¹⁸ When he takes the throne of

his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites. ¹⁹ It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees ²⁰ and not consider himself better than his brothers and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel.” (Deuteronomy 17:14-16, 18- 20) God wants the person who lead is well equipped with the word of God, humble and obedient to it, and able to teach so he will be able to direct the affair of the church and the people under his care. You can be admonished more with the following, *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”* (2Timothy 2:15)

“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. ⁹ Go to the priests, who are Levites, and to the judge who is in office at that time. Inquire of them and they will give you the verdict. ¹⁰ You must act according to the decisions they give you at the place the LORD will choose. Be careful to do everything they direct you to do. ¹¹ Act according to the law 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. ¹² The man who shows contempt for the judge or for the priest who stands ministering there to the LORD your God must be put to death. You must purge the evil from Israel. ¹³ All the people will hear and be afraid, and will not be contemptuous again.” (Deuteronomy 17:8-13) *“⁶ And I charged your judges at that time: Hear the disputes between your brothers and judge fairly, whether the case is between brother Israelites or between one of them and an alien. ¹⁷ Do not show partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be afraid of any man, for judgment belongs to God. Bring me any case too hard for you, and I will hear it. ¹⁸ And at that time I told you everything you were to do.”* (Deuteronomy 19:16-18) *“¹ When men have a dispute, they are to take it to court and the judges will decide the case, acquitting the innocent and condemning the guilty. ² If the guilty man deserves to be beaten, the judge shall make him lie down and have him flogged in his presence with the number of lashes his crime deserves, ³ but he must not give him more than forty lashes. If he is flogged more than that, your brother will be degraded in your eyes.”* (Deuteronomy 25:1-3) *“⁶ If a malicious witness takes the stand to accuse a man of a crime, ¹⁷ the two men involved in the dispute must stand in the presence of the LORD before the priests and the judges who are in office at the time. ¹⁸ The judges must make a thorough investigation, and if the witness proves to be a liar, giving false testimony against his brother, ¹⁹ then do to him as he intended to do to his brother. You must purge the evil from among you. ²⁰ The rest of the people will hear of this and be afraid, and never again will such an evil thing be done among you. ²¹ Show no pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.”* (Deuteronomy 19:16-20) God is greatly supporting his church and the church leaders with authority and esteemed them in His people life so that God's word will be obeyed and justice among the people will be prevailed. Therefore as the people will live the word of God, then His blessings will flow in their lives.

My Dear and Beloved: Jesus also upheld his church with authority to combat those who are trying to take advantage of others by their disobedient to the word of God when He said: *“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. ¹⁶ 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.’ ¹⁷ 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.”* (Matthew 18:15-17) *“Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning.”* (1Timothy 5:20)

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 thank you for your message to me that makes things clear in my mind. I commit myself to read your word and to live according to your commands a life pleasant to you. I commit myself to be available to your service by doing your will this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.