

## Men Being Ordained as Elders Today

- Steven Brunson (wife: Pam)
- David Wilson (wife: Susan)
- Peter Mishler (wife: Denise)
- Brian Eide (wife: Anne)
- Todd Bohlander (wife: Marla)

### LIVE THE STORY

*We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.*

- Why does Christ give leaders as gifts to His church? Why is it important for the church today to pursue a biblical leadership in churches?
- Is the idea presented in the message from scripture that *elder*, *overseer*, and *pastor* are used interchangeably—describing the same role—new or familiar to you? Does it adjust your view of leaders in the church?
- Do you see any significance in the fact that the apostles and early church utilized the term “elder” that had historically been used for leadership in the nation of Israel? Explain.
- What patterns can we glean from the examples of leaders being chosen in Acts 1, 6, 15? What principles can we draw here? Why must we allow variety in how the principles are applied? Is it okay to choose leaders any way we want?
- How does the process described in Scripture for the selection of leaders speak to the issue what is required to confirm one’s sense of call to ministry? Why is external (outside of our own sense) “call” to ministry essential?

## Leadership in the Restored Communities of Israel

Jerry Cisar — May 18, 2014

Text: Acts 20:17, 28-32

### Introduction: Ordaining Elders

#### A. Leaders and the church

- Philippians 2:15

#### B. Christ and Leaders in the Church

*Elders in the church are particular gifts given to strengthen, nourish, and protect Christ’s flock.*

### I. Why Elders?

#### A. Why do Elders lead the church?

##### i. *Elder*, *overseer*, *pastor* are used interchangeably.

- 1 Peter 5:1-4.
- 1 Timothy 3:1; 5:17; Titus 1:5-7
- Ephesians 4:11 and John 21:15-17

##### ii. The terms ***elder***, ***overseer***, and ***pastor*** all refer to the same office from a different vantage point: ***elder*** speaks of the office, ***overseer*** speaks of his responsibility (to watch over, to protect, and carries the idea of being near), and ***pastor*** speaks of how it is to be carried out—through the ministry of the Word.

##### iii. 1 Timothy 5:17

## B. Why the term, "Elder"?

- i. Elders were a key part of the leadership of Israel from the beginning.
  - a) Exodus 18:12
  - b) Leviticus 4:15
- ii. The use of *elders* in Acts:
  - a) *the elders in Jerusalem* as the leaders of the Jews
  - b) *the elders in Jerusalem* as the elders of the church in Jerusalem
  - c) *elders* appointed in every town as boundaries of Israel are expanded
- iii. Why use a term that means "old man" or "older man"?
- iv. Elders are a result of the Spirit outpouring. (Act 20:28)

## II. How Elders?

- A. The bible gives specific qualifications.(1 Timothy 3, Titus 1)
- B. How does the HS choose an overseer/elder?
  - i. Acts 1:21-26
  - ii. Acts 6:1-6

## iii. Acts 15:22

## III. Why Ordain?

### A. What does it mean to "ordain"?

- i. *To assign or appoint someone to a position of authority. To place them in charge of something. To set them in that office.*
  - a) Acts 6:3 **put in charge** of the need
  - b) Matthew 12:42-43
- ii. Elders are set in an office of oversight, having been selected by the people, confirmed by the existing spiritual leaders.

### B. Why do we lay hands on them publicly?

- i. We are acknowledging that the Holy Spirit is the One who chooses them.
- ii. We are asking the Holy to impart spiritual gifting for the office in order to serve effectively.
- iii. Because elders are to be recognized by the whole body; not self-proclaimed.