

# Church Leadership

## I. General Information

### Definition of leadership

Leadership is “influence.” It is the ability of one person to influence the behavior, choices, and future of another person. Another definition: Leaders help people to make the transition from the past to the future.

Influence can originate from a position of authority (example, a King or high ranking military official); or power and control (owner of a company); personality (movie or TV star), competence (skilled machinist, professional musician), expertise (scientist, physician) maturity (patriarch of family).

A leader “shows the way”, establishes the pace, sets the example for others to follow. Pastors are in a unique position to influence believers.

Biblical leadership is much different than worldly influence, and is used in different ways. The Bible emphasizes that “being” comes before “doing.” This means that character is more important than action. The leader must be what he/she desires others to become. The leader must go first where he/she calls others to go. The leader encourages others to “do what I am doing.” The leader creates within other the desire and willingness to emulate and follow.

Leaders must be examples to other believers:

I Corinthians 11:1 “Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ.”

I Peter 2:21 “Christ suffered ...leaving you an example.”

I Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7 Timothy and Titus were to be examples to believers.

John 13:15 “I have set you an example ...”

### Types of Leaders Identified in New Testament

Overseers (Greek: episkopos, literally “one to watch over”) (often translated “bishops”) Acts 20:28; Philippians 1:1; I Timothy 3:1-2; Titus 1:7; (I Peter 2:25 applied to Jesus)

Elders (Greek: presbuteros, literally “old men”) Acts 14:23; Acts 20:17; Titus 1:5; I Peter 5:1

Deacons (Greek: diakonos, literally “a servant”, the “one who hurries after another person of greater importance”) (and Deaconesses) I Corinthians 3:5 (-9); Ephesians 3:7; Romans 16:1 (Phoebe); Philippians 1:1; I Timothy 3:8, 11, 12

Pastors (Greek: poimen, literally “a shepherd”, one who tends to the flocks, not just feeds them) Ephesians 4:11 (only occurrence in Scripture)

Note: Acts 20:17, 28 and Titus 1:5, 7 use presbuteros and episkopos to refer to the same group of men. I Peter 5:1, 2 indicate that presbuteros, episkopos, and poimen are the same. Hence, in general ways, these terms mean the same thing.

The titles Overseers, Elders, Deacons, Deaconesses, and Pastor are identified as shepherds of people. This shepherding is of a spiritual nature. Unlike the leadership influences of the world, spiritual shepherding is for the benefit of others. For example:

Luke 19:10 Jesus came to seek and save lost sheep. He came to serve others.

**Types of Leaders Identified in Ephesians 4:11-12**

- Apostles
- Prophets
- Evangelists
- Pastors/Teachers

These Leaders are referred to as “gifts to the Church.” Without these gifted leaders, the Church could not function as God intends it to function.

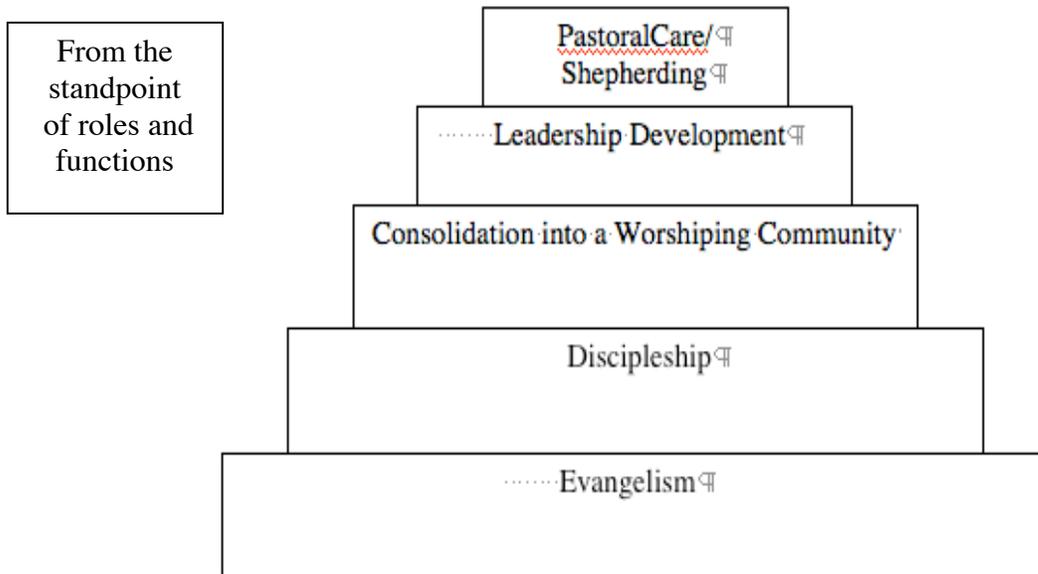
Church Leaders Have Different Concerns and Functions

<u>Calling</u>	<u>Concern</u>	<u>Function Today</u>
Apostle (apostolos/missio)	Vision	Pioneer/Missionary
Prophet “Thus says the Lord”)	Sin/Behavior of People	Preaching/Proclamation
Evangelist	Salvation	Outreach
Pastor	Nurture/Personal Care	Shepherd of Flock
Teacher	Truth	Training/Instruction

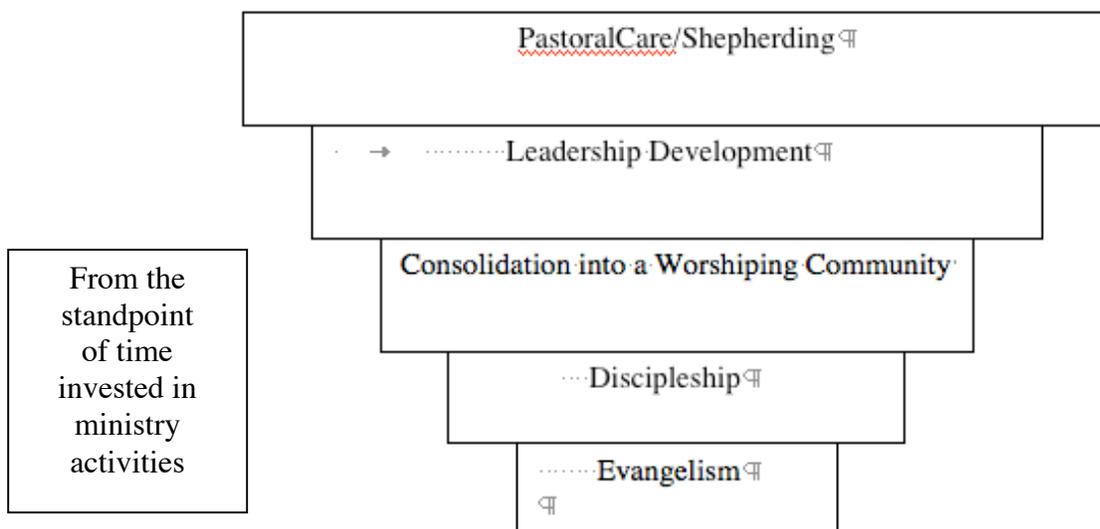
The General Description of Top Level Leaders :

Overseer/Elder/ Shepherd	Nurture/Personal Care/ Guidance	Governance/Guidance/ Service/Leadership
-----------------------------	------------------------------------	--

The purpose for leaders is given in Ephesians 4:12-13. Each leadership style/function is important, but the importance occurs at different times and in different circumstances. For examples, consider the following activities involved in church planting activities:



The work begins with Evangelism, which leads to Discipleship, Community Consolidation, Leadership Development, and eventually requires the leader to be involved in Pastoral Care (Shepherding) of the congregation.



As the fellowship develops and increases in numbers, the leader will find himself more and more involved in the personal lives of the members of the congregation.

The greater the development in the church plant, the greater is the need for the pastor/leader to develop people to help with the ministry.

The higher the church-planter moves up in responsibility, the more he must depend on others for help in the ministry.