

# What Are We Doing Here?

## Part 5



Leadersheep

# Introduction

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Some people love this word. Some people hate it. What word? **Organization**. In which sense? Pick one! “I am/not an organized person.” “I work for an organization, and I use the term loosely.” It’s in that second sense we are going to home in on. Every organization has a structure. [2 LAPD] [3 Disney] [4 Govt.]

Structure implies a few things. Levels on value or importance. Top dogs and pee-ons. Implies areas of responsibility, accountability and ownership. Who is in charge of that? Who gets the credit? Who gets the blame?

When it comes to organization in churches, I think the sources of trouble and strife can be boiled down to two questions about the organization; whose model are you following, and who is really in charge (or whose thing is this?) regardless of level. For the last 50 years many churches have adopted the models of the business world. All kinds of problems with that. Hiring practices, competition among staff, celebrity leadership. Who is supposed to be in charge? Jesus! Having ownership and stewardship is one thing. Being possessive is something else all together. *If you feel threatened by the service of others, you are being possessive.*

Based on this introduction you might think that we are going to go in-depth on our church leadership model and who is in charge of what. Guess what? We’re not! Why not? Because the model of organization should serve the purpose and obligations of the organization, not the other way around. The people leading the various things that are needed are to serve the rest of the body, not the other way around.

## Ingression

What are the obligations of the parts of a church body? What are the parts anyway? Two major divisions - the leadership and the body. In a church it shouldn’t even be called leadership it should be called leadersheep because that is what we all are. This division is not one of value or importance, it is one of function. Today we are going to focus on the obligations of the leadersheep to the body.

## Inspiration

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Series review. This is both a “what are we” and a “doing here” study.

Talked about the gospel that qualifies us all for being a part/member of a church.

Talked about what the church is; a body. An interconnected and interdependent collection of people who embody Jesus on earth.

The last two weeks we talked about doctrine, the die-fors and divide-fors as shown in scripture.

## Ingression

Today going to talk about the obligations of the leadership of the church to the rest of the body.

## Leadersheep

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Before we get into the points and passages, need to define some terms. Boiled down.

[4] **Deacon** - someone in a position of leadership whose focus is primarily practical in nature, yet spiritually driven. Acts 6 guys. Bryan leading setup people. Jess as secretary. Can be men and women.

[5] **Elder** - a male in a position of leadership whose focus is primarily spiritual in nature, yet practically driven. Most arguments have to do with general and specific application/usage of the word. Generally any older/more experienced person, man or woman, who trains up a younger person. Specifically in church leadership, a male who has the responsibility of spiritually leading in some capacity. Age isn’t always a factor.

[6] **Pastor** - a shepherd. Describes a specific role as well as a general attribute. In terms of roles, a pastor is an elder, but an elder isn’t necessarily a pastor. In terms of an attribute, elders should have pastors/shepherds hearts.

[7] Bishop/Overseer - one who looks over/after, supervises, cares for a group of people. Describes a specific role as well as a general attribute. In terms of roles, an overseer is an elder, but an elder isn't necessarily an overseer. In terms of an attribute, overseers should have pastors/shepherds hearts.

This is why elder, pastor, and bishop/overseer are in many ways interchangeable terms, where some confusion and division come in. Not as clear-cut and chart-like as we might prefer.

## Ideation

[8] We, the elders and deacons of The Exchange Church, will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17-22, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-5).

[9] We will seek God's will for our church community to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-5).

[10] We will care for you and seek your growth as a disciple of Jesus, in part by equipping you for service and praying for you regularly, particularly when you are sick (Ephesians 4:11-13; James 5:14).

[11] We will provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27; Galatians 6:6; 1 Timothy 5:17-18).

[12] We will be on guard against false teachers from inside and outside of the church (Acts 20:29-31, Titus 1:10-16).

[13] We will exercise church discipline when necessary (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1).

[14] We will set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of church body members (1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12). Crossover verse.

## Ingression

The heart behind all of this is not to lord it over anyone, to be the boss of anyone, but to play follow the leader.

## Imploration

If this kind of mindset, heart-set, isn't in place, the model and structure are rendered meaningless. Pastor led, plurality-of-elders led, congregational led, all become irrelevant.

These are the things our church leadership wants to be so that we can foster them in the body, so that as the body grows we can replicate ourselves and share the responsibility, as opposed to being afraid of losing something.

I'm not here, we aren't here, to do the work for you, to be a disciple for you, but to disciple you, to lead you, so that you in turn can disciple and lead others. This is what Jesus wanted. This is what I mean by leadership. [Gospel tie-in](#).