

## Following the New Testament Pattern – The One Man Preacher System

### The Model Seen In Many Churches Today

- The one-man preacher model (minister, preacher, pastor).
- Church leadership selects a person with a degree from a Bible college.
- This individual is paid to teach the congregation.
- Typically the “preacher’s” name is advertised on the church sign.
- The preacher has a great influence on the congregation.
  - “This is my preacher or pastor”
  - “My preacher of pastor says...”

### The One Man Preacher System is Not Found In The New Testament

- Although the practice of the one man preacher system is popular today, there is no...
  - No direct command
  - Approved example
  - Necessary inferenceregarding this type of position in the first century church.
- No command/example of church elders/leadership hiring one man for the purpose of teaching the church.

### Concerns Regarding the One Man Preacher System

- The New Testament pattern does not place one man above all others in the church.
  - Easy to develop pride
  - Environment for false doctrines (submit to the “pastor’s teaching”).
- Church members may sit back and let the “professionals” do their job.
- It creates an environment where the truth might be compromised since the preacher’s paycheck is on the line.
- The “preacher” is a hired person and may not show proper concern – John 10:11-13

### The Organization of The Lord’s Church

- Eph 4:11 -----
- Apostles (witnesses to Christ’s resurrection) – Acts 1:22
  - Prophets – teachers before the completed written word of God
  - Evangelists – those who preach the gospel to the world.
  - Elders (bishops, pastors, presbytery) - Ac 14:23 ; 1 Tim 4:14, 1 Tim 3:1
    - Qualifications - 1 Tim 3:1-7
    - Work
      - \* Rule, oversee, feed the flock – Jas 5:14, 1 Pet 5:2; Acts 20:28
      - \* Being good examples - 1 Pet 5:3
      - \* Not making laws for the congregation - Jam 4:12
      - \* Teach - 1 Tim 5:17; 1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:9
      - \* Not authorized to hire someone to do their job.
      - \* Not simply directors who oversee the work of others.
    - Always multiple elders in one congregation - Ac 20:17; 21:17-18
  - Teachers – not all teachers are elders.
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- Deacons
    - Qualifications – 1 Tim 3:8-13
  - Members – 1 Cor 12:27

No one man is to have authority over a congregation.  
There is no example of the first century church using the one man preacher model.

### Your Important Role

- Don’t look for someone else to do the work you should be doing.
- You have the responsibility of being a teacher - Heb 5:12

**The one man preacher system is not found in the practices of the first century church.**

**What Is Our Goal?** Follow the practices of the first century church.

**How?** Adhere to the approved practices of the first century church by not adding what God has not authorized.