

## Fwd: Role of Pastor

"Are Pastors Biblical???"

The New Testament never establishes a paid clergy or a "pastor" as a ruling office over the church. The early believers functioned as a body of equals led by elders and guided by the Spirit, not professional staff.

### 1. The Role of "Pastor" in Scripture

The term *poimēn* ("shepherd") appears once in reference to a church role—Ephesians 4:11—and is descriptive, not positional. Shepherding is a function shared among elders (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-3), not a title of hierarchy. The New Testament model is a plurality of elders who teach and guard the flock, not a single leader at the top.

### 2. Headship Belongs to Christ Alone

Christ is called the "head of the church" (Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:18). Human headship within the church contradicts this. Jesus forbade rank titles:

"You are not to be called Rabbi, for you have one Teacher... and you are all brothers" (Matthew 23:8-10). The pattern is mutual submission, not institutional hierarchy.

### 3. The Early Church Model

Acts 2:42-47 and 1 Corinthians 14:26 show gatherings where every believer contributed. Leadership was shared, decisions were communal (Acts 15), and no record exists of salaried pastors. Paul, though he could have received support, chose to work with his own hands to avoid burdening the church (Acts 20:33-35; 1 Thessalonians 2:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-8).

### 4. Paul's Teaching on Support

While 1 Timothy 5:17-18 permits support for elders who labor in teaching, it does not mandate salary. The context is sustenance for traveling or needy workers, not professional wages. The gospel was never intended as a career (2 Corinthians 2:17—"we are not like so many, peddlers of God's word").

### 5. The Priesthood of All Believers

1 Peter 2:9 and Revelation 1:6 teach that all Christians are priests, serving God directly. This eliminates any biblical basis for clergy-laity division. The Spirit distributes gifts "to each one" for the building up of the body (1 Corinthians 12:7). Leadership functions exist, but they serve—not rule—the church (Luke 22:25-27).

### 6. Summary Logic

Christ alone is head.

All believers are ministers.

Early church leaders were plural, unpaid, and servant-minded.

Paid pastoral hierarchies arose later through institutionalization, not apostolic command.

Conclusion:

The office of "pastor" as chief executive and paid professional is extra-biblical. Biblical leadership is shared, Spirit-led, and non-commercial. Payment for ministry distorts service into profession and replaces Christ's headship with human control"

~Abolitionist Todd M Bullis

Sent from my iPhone