

"Ordained To Serve"

Exodus 18:13 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening. **14** And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even? **15** And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to enquire of God: **16** When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws. **17** And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good. **18** Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone.

Pastor's Role

- ❖ Intercessory Prayer
- ❖ Biblical Instruction
- ❖ Raising Leaders
- ❖ Conflict Management
- ❖ Bringing Spiritual Breakthrough

Over the years, I have discovered something about Churches. The greatest indicator of the health and strength of any Church is - the health and strength of its servant mind set - servants make for a good strong Church. And quite frankly, good churches make good pastors even better.

I do not mean to say that pastors are unimportant, for that is surely not true. But I have learned that a strong servant mind set makes for strong Churches - and that means a good servant mind set makes up for weaknesses in a pastor - and quite frankly, all of us pastors have weaknesses.

On the other hand, no matter how good a pastor might be, he or she cannot make up for weak servant mind set. **Weak servants are those who either do not know what they are called to do - or do not do what they are called to do, to the best of their abilities.** Strong servants who know what they are called to do - in serving a Church and - who serve effectively - make for a strong and effective Church.

The tradition of ordaining people to serve in the Church is a practice that is as old as Exodus. The Book of Numbers tells of God's plan for Moses to set apart certain servants to help lead the people of God.

Numbers 11:10 Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased. **11**And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me? **12**Have I conceived all this people? have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in

thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers? **13**Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people? for they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat. **14**I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me. **15**And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness. **16**And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee. **17**And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.

The laying on of hands is not an empty gesture. It expresses the giving and receiving of a gift.

- **Jesus laid his hands upon children** and said that the kingdom of *God* belonged to them.
- **Jesus laid his hands upon people who were sick** - and with a touch of his hand, healed them.
- **The Apostles laid their hands upon people** and the Spirit of *God* was given to those who had been baptized.
- **In the early Church, individuals were set aside for special tasks in the Church** by the laying on of hands
- **The Holy Spirit** spoke to those gathered in Antioch and said, "**Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.**" Then those leaders, who had gathered there, laid their hands upon them and sent them off to do the work the Spirit of *God* had called them to do.

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Like all positions in the Church, Elders, Deacons, Greeters, Nursery care, Teachers, Grounds and Property Care and Ministers of the Word are called and ordained to ministries of SERVICE. Our ministries of service are modeled

on the ministry of Jesus Christ, who said that he came NOT to BE served - but to serve. We have been ordained not to be served, but to serve God - and to serve all of God's children.

Leaders in the Church are not called to follow their own understanding. Instead, together you are called by God to seek the understanding of Christ and to Follow Christ wherever he leads. You are called to lead this Church in following Christ.

Following Christ is not easy now and it never has been easy. Christ leads us on paths that many of us would rather not walk. He leads us to do things that we might ordinarily never do. It has always been so. Jesus was constantly putting his first disciples on the spot. And those first servants, who he called to follow him, had to decide whether to follow Jesus, or to go in some other direction. Now, as then, we have to decide whether we really want to follow Jesus - no matter where Christ leads us. His way really is the road less traveled.

Each and every one of you is a member of the Body of Christ - and the Body of Christ, the Church, cannot function well without the full and faithful participation of all of its members. For this Church to maintain a strong witness in this community, all of you must use your considerable gifts and talents to serve God through the mission and ministry of this Church.