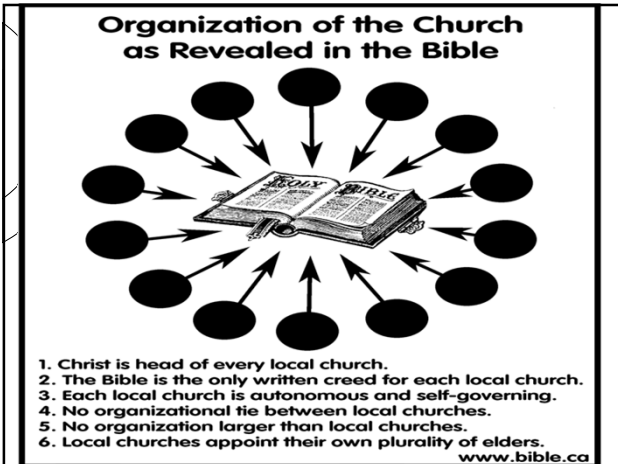
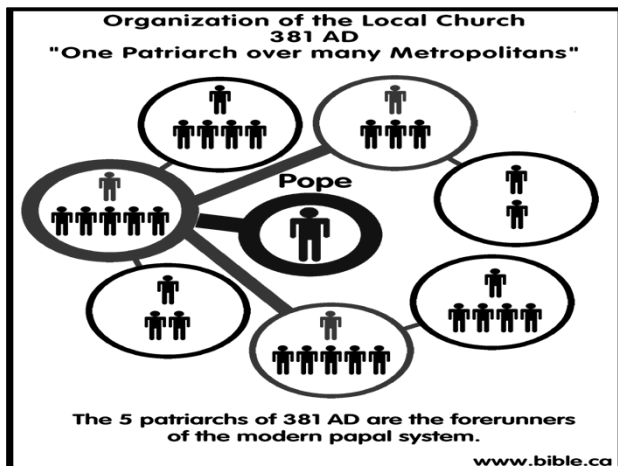


**The New Testament Church**  
(Part 2)  
**Matthew 16:13-18**

- The New Testament Church**
- **Founded upon Jesus Christ, the Son of God.** Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 3:11; 1 Corinthians. 2:2
  - **Began in Jerusalem about 33 A.D.** Isaiah 2:3; Matthew 3:2; Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 10:9; Matthew 10:7; Mark 9:1; Luke 24:44ff; Acts 1:6-8; 2:1-4,47; 11:15
  - **Christ is its head and only source of authority.** Matthew 28:19; Ephesians 1:22-23; Matthew 21:23-27; Matthew 7:21; Luke 6:46

- The New Testament Church**
- **Organized after the divine pattern.**  
Philippians 1:1
    - Elders: Acts 14:23; 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1ff; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-7
    - Deacons: 1 Timothy 3:8-13
    - Members: 1 Corinthians 12:12ff





### Elders, Bishops, And Pastors

- Acts 20:17-18, "And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called to him the **elders** of the church ..." (ASV).
- Paul admonished them to, "Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit hath made you **bishops**" (ASV) ("overseers" KJV).
- They were, "to feed ("to shepherd" NKJV) the church of the Lord which he purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28 ASV).
  - "Pastor," *poimainæ*; to feed or shepherd the flock. It literally means "to feed, to tend a flock, keep sheep" (Thayer).
- All three terms are here used to describe the same men doing the same job in the local church.

### Elders, Bishops, And Pastors

- 1 Peter 5:1-3, "The **elders** among you I exhort, who am a fellow-elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, who am also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: **Tend the flock** of God which is among you, exercising the **oversight** ..."
  - The apostle Peter is addressing the elders. Their work is to "shepherd," NKJV, NASV; "tend," ASV; "feed," KJV, the flock.
  - The text uses the verb form of "**pastor**," *poimainæ*; the same word used to describe the work of elders/bishops/overseers in Acts 20:28.

### Elders, Bishops, And Pastors

- Titus 1:5, "For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that were wanting, and appoint **elders** in every city, as I gave thee charge."
- Titus 1:5-9, "If any man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having children that believe, who are not accused of riot or unruly. For the **bishop** ("overseer" NAS, ESV) must be blameless, as God's steward ..."
  - The terms "**elder**" and "**bishop**" (*overseer*) are here used interchangeably to refer to that office.
  - Their work as described in Titus 1:9ff is exactly the same work described in Acts 20 that is to be done by **elders** or **bishops**. They are "**shepherds**" (*pastors*) and protect the flock.

## Elders, Bishops, And Pastors

- Clearly “**elders**,” “**overseers**,” “**pastors**,” and “**bishops**” in these passages are used interchangeably, referring to the same men in the same work.
- All four terms refer to an office in the local congregation, and are therefore identical in extent of jurisdiction (cf. Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Peter 5:1-3; etc.). Their qualifications and works are identical.
- It is a perversion in organization for denominations to distinguish the terms as if they apply to different offices.

## The New Testament Church

- **Has a divine mission.**
  - Evangelism. 1 Timothy 3:15; Acts 11:22; Philipians 1:3-5; 4:14-16; 2 Corinthians 11:8-9
  - Benevolence. Acts 2, 4, 6; Acts 11:27-30; 1 Corinthians 16:1-3; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 9:1-2; Romans 15:25ff
  - Edification. Ephesians 4:11-16