

“And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.”

- Colossians 1:18, ESV

When God's Word is talking about God's design for leadership in his church, it is talking about God's design to bless us, to do good to us.

The main
question: What
does God's Word
teach us about his
good design for
the leadership of
his church?

“Paul and Timothy,
servants of Christ
Jesus,
To all the saints in
Christ Jesus who
are at Philippi, with
the overseers and
deacons.”

- Philippians 1:1

“Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord.”

- Acts 14:23, ESV

“An elder is a pastor is a shepherd is an overseer is a teacher is a leader, and in many ways the unifying concept underlying the biblical material is that of guardian. Our job, as elders, is to protect the church from harm—from danger, dispersal, division, drift, deviant doctrine, disobedience, destruction, and ultimately the devil—while we wait for the day when Jesus returns, conquers the accuser, and takes his rightful place as the Shepherd to end all shepherds.”

- Andrew Wilson

“For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.”

- 1 Timothy 3:13, ESV

When Christ ascended, “he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”

- Ephesians 4:11-12, ESV

Application #1:
How should
God's people
respond to God's
good design for
the leadership of
his church?

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

- Hebrews 13:17

Application #2:
How should a
pastor-elder
respond to God's
good design in
leading his
church?

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.”

- Acts 20:28

“Learn much of the Lord Jesus. For every look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ. He is altogether lovely. Such infinite majesty, and yet such meekness and grace, and all for sinners, even the chief. Live much in the smiles of God. Bask in his beams. Feel his all-seeing eye settled upon you in love, and repose in his almighty arms... Let your soul be filled with a heart-ravishing sense of the sweetness and excellency of Christ and all that is in him.”

- Robert Murray M'Cheyne