

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

RLJ-1321

JOHN S. TORELL

DECEMBER 18, 2011

PART 7: THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY

The term “five-fold ministry” has a bad connotation with people in the old mainline denominations in the United States. It was coined in the Charismatic movement dating back to the late 1960s, but in the letter to the Ephesians, Paul says there are five offices within the church of Jesus Christ. **Ephesians 4:11**

Last week we studied the first three offices of apostle, prophet and evangelist.

4. PASTOR

The Greek word for pastor is “poimen,” meaning “shepherd” or “feeder.”

In the New Testament the title of “pastor” is interchangeable with “elder” or “bishop,” the latter coming from the Greek word “episkopos,” which means “overseer” or “superintendent.” This was the title given to the person in charge of a local church and the duties were spelled out by Paul. **1 Timothy 3:1-7**

It is essential that every local church has a pastor

5. TEACHER

The Greek word for teacher is “didaskalos,” meaning “instructor.”

In order for the Christian church to survive from generation to generation, there must be a set doctrine and people who teach it. God made that point very clear to Moses and the children of Israel. **Deuteronomy 6:1-9**

Paul clearly stated the need for teachers. **1 Timothy 2:1-2; 4:1-4**

A church cannot survive without teachers.

We can therefore conclude that the five-fold ministry is essential. Any church that has all five offices filled by men and women who are walking with the Lord in spirit and in truth will be unstoppable.

Are you willing to seek the office God has created you for? Are you willing to surrender to the will of God instead of your own will? The fields are white and ready to be harvested. **Luke 10:2**

WHY HAVE CHURCH OFFICERS?

Once Paul had identified what offices were needed, he then informed the people what the purpose was. That means that it also applies to all churches until Jesus comes back.

1. Perfecting the saints. **Ephesians 4:12**



2. Unity with Christ and the believers. **verse 13**
3. Maturing in Christ. **verses 14-15**
4. Giving strength to the body of believers. **verse 16**

The Devil is always encouraging lone rangers and renegade Christians. Every false religion spawned from the body of Christ has always been led by a person who is discontent, cannot get along with other people, and claims to have some special revelations. Joseph Smith, Charles Taze Russell, Ellen G. White, Herbert W. Armstrong, Harold Camping and a host of others have rejected church leadership and declared that all churches are apostate and that they alone have the truth. **1 John 2:18-19**

A local Christian church operating in all five offices with the understanding that each office is equal and leaders working together in the unity of the Holy Ghost will be able to stay true to the calling and teaching of Jesus Christ as laid out in the Bible. **Acts 2:41-47**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?