

## Lecture 23 – The Doctrine of the Church: Church Offices

*In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.*

*Hebrews 1:1-4*

### Key Terms

Ordination, office, Christ's threefold office, elder & deacon, spiritual equality, spiritual gifts, worship, service.

### Lecture Objectives

- To explore and explain the idea of “office” in church organization and its scriptural basis in the person of Christ
- To discuss the biblical basis for understanding women in the church and its service
- To identify some of the application of Christ's offices for the life and ministry of the church and its members

### Preview

After a study of the various structures of government within the church, we will proceed to church offices. We will also cover the much debated issue of women's role in the church. This will conclude our study of what the church does. By now the importance of grounding the church's function in the church's identity should be obvious. Prior outline points have been listed for continuity.

### The Doctrine of the Church: Church Offices

I. The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

II. The Doctrine of Election

III. The Doctrine of the Church

A. The nature of the church

B. The marks of the church: Word, sacraments, discipline

C. Attributes of the church

D. The service of the church

E. The government of the church

1. New Testament churches

2. Presbyterian churches

\*3. Church offices

a. Definition of terms

1) Ordination

2) Office

b. Christ's threefold office

1) Prophet, Priest, King

a) Hebrews 1

b) Revelation 1:5

2) Relation to office in the church

a) Generally

b) Specifically

- c. The structure of the NT church office
  - 1) The NT distinguishes between elders and deacons
    - a) Philippians 1:1
    - b) 1 Timothy 3:1-12
    - c) Titus 1:5
  - 2) The NT distinguishes between teaching and ruling elders
    - a) 1 Timothy 5:17
    - b) Romans 12:7-8
  - 3) Elders and teaching
    - a) 1 Timothy 3:2
    - b) 2 Timothy 4:2
- d. Women and church service
  - 1) Women share equally with men in spiritual blessings and privileges
    - a) Spiritual equality
    - b) Spiritual gifts
    - c) Worship
    - d) Service
    - e) Diaconal ministries
  - 2) Women are prohibited from holding teaching and ruling offices
    - a) 1 Timothy 2:11-15
    - b) 1 Corinthians 14:33-35